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U S O N G.

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EASTERN NARRATIVE.

WRITTEN IN GERMAN

By BARON HALLER.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.



L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR THE TRANSLATOR; AND SOLD
BY F. NEWBERRY IN LUDGATE STREET, AND
J. WALTER AT CHARING CROSS.

MDCCLXXII.



ERRATA.

Page 31, line 10, *wasted* read *drifted*.

74, 17, *even* read *ever*.

82, last, *Hannaway* read *Hanway*.

U S O N G.

BOOK THE THIRD.

USONG loved peace, because he loved his people; but *Persia's* honour was yet dearer to him, since without that no lasting peace could be secured — An unexpected affront compelled him to take up arms. The rapacious governor of the new *Egyptian* sultan at *Halep*, regardless of *Ufong's* deputy who was appointed to conduct *Zeno* to his native city, had detained the ambassador, insulted him,

VOL. II.

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and

and seized on part of the gifts he was bearing to *Venice*. Scarce could the remonstrances and menaces of the *Persian* obtain from the *Circassian* robber, that *Zeno*, half plundered, should at length be suffered to depart.

This indignity, offered to the representative of a friendly state, who travelled under his safeguard, *Usong* could not forbear resenting. *Merwan*, a captain of the guard, a calm but resolute *Persian*, was sent to *Alkabirab*: he represented to the new sultan *Ol Malek ot Thaber*, that nature itself had formed the tie which united *Persia* and *Egypt*, since the *Osmons* were the common enemies of both; that the amity which subsisted between *Persia* and *Venice* had

no

no other object but to counterbalance the spreading power of that enterprising people; and that all *Ufong* demanded was, that the *Sultan* should disavow the conduct of his substitute, and declare it an act of injustice in which he was no ways concerned.

The governor of *Halep* was one of the four and twenty *Princes*, who, from mere abject slaves, were now become the lords of *Egypt*: he was in high repute among his brethren, and had greatly contributed to the present sultan's elevation. This sceptered slave had neither inclination nor courage to chastise his friend. The answer was long deferred; and at length the *Persian* was dismissed with a slight palliation

of the offence, nearly amounting to as great an insult as the deed itself. The counsels of the *Egyptian* court were feeble and desultory; the *Sultan* gave up but few moments of his luxurious life to the cares of government, and always hastily adopted such partial measures as were suggested by his eunuchs, or some formidable bey.

Merwan hastened back to *Schiras*; and *Ufong*, though loth to shed the blood of his people, prepared for war. The *Curds* who dwelled in tents were summoned forth: at *Tabris* a chosen band of *Georgian* cavalry joined the camp: the emperor headed one half of the *Persian* standing forces, together with the few marksmen he had trained up himself.

himself. This select host met in the fertile meads of *Aderbeitsban*. *Ufong* led it through *Erbil* and *Merdin*, towards *Halep*; and threw terror into *Orfé*, a town belonging to the sultan. *Dshuneid* came, with a considerable number of *Arabian* volunteers to the assistance of his valorous friend.

The native vigor of the old *Circassians* had indeed been softened by the luxuries of *Egypt*; but the swarms of savage *Nogajans*, *Crimeans*, *Georgians* and *Circassians* that yearly flocked to complete the army of the *Mamaluks*, still maintained amongst them the rough spirit of bravery, which particularly distinguishes all undepraved and independent nations. The sultan advanced

at the head of a powerful army, provided with a large train of artillery, and several legions of soldiers long practised in the use of fire-arms.

Ufong knew his *Persians*: he knew that this ingenious, and by no means pusillanimous people, obedient to the call of honour, vigorously assail a foe; but are too easily daunted by every check of adverse fortune. He made choice of an advantageous post, and frequently sent out parties of horse to risk small skirmishes; in which the sabres and better conduct of the *Persians* usually prevailed. Thus he inspired his troops with confidence, and intimidated the enemy. He daily drew out his forces in battle array, and the *Egyptians* followed his example;

example; but before an attack could be made, *Ufong* never failed to retire into his camp, which, being sheltered by fortified eminences and defended by the heavy artillery, was effectually guarded against any attempt of his adversaries.—Ten successive days did he thus alternately come forward and then retreat; till at length the *Circassians*, accustomed to these unmeaning feints, began to make sport of the warlike motions of the *Persians*. But on the eleventh day, *Ufong* marched out his army two hours before the rising of the sun, and no sooner had its first rays appeared, but he gave the signal for the attack*.

* *Persia's* symbol was the rising sun.

“ The eyes of all *Persia* are now upon
 “ you,” cried he to the leaders of his army : “ She numbers all your heroic deeds,
 “ and will reward them with everlasting
 “ glory.” The word was, *Persia’s honour*. The animated *Persians* rushed with
 new kindled fire among the heedless and
 unprepared *Circassians*. Many thousands
 fell ; and the survivors abandoned *Upper*
Syria and *Halep* unto the conqueror. *

Ufong led his victorious army through
 the finest provinces of *Asia*, towards
Syria. His view was not to weaken
Egypt, for he considered that power as
 the barrier of *Persia*. He heard with
 pleasure that an embassy was on the

* *Bizarro* has related this victory.

road from *Alkabirah*, which came to offer terms of accommodation. *Usong* demanded no more after the victory, than he had done before. The governor of *Halep* was degraded from his dignity, and from the rank he held among the four and twenty princes: all the valuable effects that had been taken from *Zeno* were brought together and restored: and the only condition *Usong* imposed on the *Egyptian* monarch was, that his intercourse with *Venice* should, for the future, be carried on without impediment or molestation through the sultan's harbours and dominions; and that a free transit should be permitted to all travellers and merchandise. *Persia* retained the conquered part of *Algezira*.

The

The emperor had now compassed his aim: the honour of *Persia* was vindicated, and that important object had been obtained with little bloodshed. He wished not to enlarge his dominions, for the extent of *Persia* could have satisfied an ambition much greater than that of *Ufong*. He released the prisoners; and, after having distributed adequate gifts and honours among the princes, commanders, and private men, he dispersed the army in the plains of *Tabris*—He made diligent search after every meritorious action, and left none unrewarded: he personally addressed those who had most signalized themselves; he thanked them in the name of *Persia*: and the chiefs had orders to
pro-

proclaim to the whole army the emperor's high esteem and approbation.

Ufong flew to the arms of his *Liosua*, and found the *Chinese* colony considerably augmented by an addition of new artists. The messenger was returned, and had brought letters from the wife *Liewang*. The venerable *Zongtu* had abdicated all his high offices, and retired to *Kiofoe*, the native place of his great ancestor *Kong-fu-see*; where, as he said, he would now, in the practice of wisdom, peaceably await his dying hour. He hinted that corruption daily gained ground at court. *Yng Zong* was an infant: the *Tartars* committed frequent depredations in the empire; and the emperor himself was soon after taken
by

by the *Mongolians* in a decisive battle, and led away captive into *Tartary*. *Liewang* foresaw the downfall of the empire; which was not indeed accomplished till long after, but the causes of which were then already active and irremediable.

Tidings were also brought from *Timurtash*, to whom the victory that had been gained over the *Chinese* was partly owing. “ But *Ufong*’s prosperity is far
“ dearer to me, than the most signal
“ victories,” said the affectionate parent.

A dignified *Arab* arrived at the same time with a letter from the reverend *Hassan*, which he was ordered to deliver

deliver into the emperor's own hands. The aged *Alid* congratulated the son of his tender love, on all the good the world proclaimed of him, and on the great success that had attended all his enterprizes. " But one thing," said he, " is yet wanting to complete the glorious work—*Hassan* does not hear that religious matters have yet been enquired into: the *Meschides* are deserted: the voice of admonition is silent; and the bewildered people lose sight of the prophets, and forget even God himself."

Usong had the greatest veneration for the Supreme Being; and though he gave no credit to the miracles of the prophet, yet he thought the world greatly indebted

debted to *Mabomet* for having restrained idolatry, and taught his *Arabs* to adore the true and only God—Neither had the rites of public worship escaped his notice. The wise monarch was too well persuaded that religion is the real tie of human society; that it establishes a friendly intercourse among mankind; and most effectually induces the nations to obey their sovereigns, considering them as the vice-gerents of the Most High. Too well had the *Chinese* convinced him, that without the fear of the Almighty, men might indeed be brought to observe an outward decorum; but that no sufficient check could ever be opposed to their prevailing appetites.

And

And yet *Hassan's* reproof was founded. *Ufong* had, with sorrow, experienced the impossibility of finding persons qualified for the immediate service of the Lord. He had met in *Persia* with no schools, where teachers of religious doctrines were educated; and no *Iman*, whose learning and morals were adequate to the high dignity a chief minister of divine worship is bound at all times to support.

He applied to the reverend *Alid*; and solicited that he would himself endeavour to make practicable, what he so warmly recommended. He begged a number of the most religious *Arabs* to preside at the sacred functions in the
prin-

principal *Meschides* *, and of such men of learning and virtue, as might instruct the *Persian* youth in the precepts of religion, and in other useful knowledge. He knew the great advantage of forming the minds and hearts of the people. He acknowledged however to the zealous *Hassan*, that his sole object was the worship of the only God; and that he paid no regard to the adoration of a man, nor to the inveterate wranglings of bigotted secretaries. He prayed his friend to be particularly attentive in the choice of such men, as had no other aim but the knowledge of the true God, and the constant practice of godliness and virtue. He owned,

* Mosques.

that though he did not slight the innocent ceremonies, and pious ablutions of the *Makometans*, yet he could not but consider it as a childish folly, to think of pleasing the Divinity by exterior rituals of devotion, which even the worst of hearts can most religiously observe.

In the mean while he caused the *Meschides* in the towns to be restored, and made ready for the assemblies of the faithful. He sought, by means of his delegates, after grave and godly men; whom he appointed to read to the people, on stated holidays, such portions of the *Koran* as the *Mollahs Abdul of Tabris**, and *Mahomet Raze Emune* a dis-

* The *Alids* have since continued this institution.

ciple of the former, had selected for that purpose; in which the great attributes of the Deity, our duty of conforming to the commandments of the Almighty, and the means of attaining at this most salutary end, were amply explained and persuasively enforced. He allowed these readers to add such arguments, drawn from natural divinity and practical morality, as might be wanting in the *Koran*.—The five daily prayers were strictly enjoined to all the old believers.

Ufong assigned a competent provision for the ministers of the divine service: a tenth part of the land-tax was set aside for their maintenance. But the emperor would neither invest them with
any

any judicial authority, as the *Osmans* had unwisely done ; nor grant them the least immunity from the general laws and ordinary tribunals. He had seen in the histories of *Europe*, the dreadful consequences the error of the *Nazarene* princes had exposed them to, in suffering, through their imbecility, the clergy to form itself into a separate order ; and at length into a sovereign state which exhausted the people even of necessaries, banished all natural liberty, and soon became so powerful and audacious, as to subvert the throne of those princes who opposed themselves to the superstitious obedience paid to the arrogant head of that church. The chief *Mollah* of the emperor's *Meschide* was less the head of the *Persian* clergy,

than the emperor's superintendant of that body.

Haffan now also perceived how scarce those men are, whose hearts are penetrated with the truths their mouths profess; but he did all that the general corruption would allow: he chose the gravest among the priests, and invited from their solitary retreats those sages who had dedicated themselves to heavenly meditations: the small number he was able to collect he carefully examined himself, and sent them to the emperor; who surrendered to them the chief *Meschides* in the capital cities. Most of them were *Alids* of the race of *Hosseïn*, son to the daughter of *Mahomet*; and these have long after continued

nued in possession of the highest dignities in the priesthood.

Ufong was more successful in the institution of public schools. The *Persians* are acute, and naturally qualified for all the sciences that pertain to ethics, wit, and numbers. The empire boasted of many sublime poets, solid moralists, and profound astronomers.—*Ufong* established also higher seminaries, in which men of the greatest eminence *, and even some *Persian* nobles, undertook the more important offices of completing the education of their youths; who, on their parts, shewed an equal ardour to imbibe the superior doctrines

* See *Chardin's travels*.

of wisdom and of knowledge. The emperor's auspicious eye, and his attention to prefer the best proficient, gave active life to all his regulations. He caused the pupils to be examined publicly and unprepared, in the sciences they cultivated; and the questions that were proposed were distributed to them by lots. *Ufong* himself, or in his absence his delegate, presided at these examinations; and the manner in which the students had acquitted themselves, was registered in the presence of the whole assembly. Those who had merited three honourable testimonies, were certain of speedy promotion: the judges were chosen out of their number; the few elects, after having, during three years, heard the law-proceedings in the nearest

nearest courts, underwent another public examination, and were then seated on the bench. The emperor reflected on the *Chinese* establishments; but he found means to prevent the evil effects of bribes and interest which too often artfully conveyed the rewards of real merit to slothful ignorance, or native imbecility.

Ufong flattered himself that by means of this public essay, the concurrence of the inquisitive *Persians*, and their quick penetration, which was never wont to spare notorious errors, would effectually obviate the influence of favour, and the iniquitous practices of venality. Every presiding judge, every delegate must feel conscious shame in inscribing, before a number of intelligent witnesses,

false decisions of the probationers merit. The emperor's prevailing maxim was, to punish rigorously whoever should attempt to impose upon him; and here a fraud could scarce be long concealed, since a whole town had the inspection of every public essay: the lots contributed also to prevent unfair partiality; they were drawn in the evening, and the examination always began at the next rising sun.

But *Ufong* founded also other schools, of which *Persia* had discovered no trace in any other nation. He caused large and commodious buildings * to be erected, in which many artists were

* *Chardin's* description of *Ispahan*.

supported

supported by imperial salaries, and employed merely for the service of the court. He gave the preference to those arts that owe their progress rather to genius and understanding, than to the mere rote of practice. He entertained painters and architects. Other artificers prepared various arms of steel and brass for the emperor; and others again imitated in silk the gayest flowers of nature. — Some chased, in elegant display, the polished gems of *Hindustan*, and the pearls of *Persia*: some wove the finest velvets, which could be equalled by no other nations; and some tinged the silks and wool with the brightest and yet most lasting colours, in which they excelled even the industrious *Europeans*. The most skilful received
large

large stipends, and the whole wages of their labour were besides punctually paid them; they could also rely on the emperor's continued favour. By this wise institution, *Persia* procured to itself not only a considerable number of eminent artists, but also an excellent school for the whole empire.—The fruits of *Ufong's* wisdom survived him many ages.—The *Persians* are not inventive, and the many luxuries of nature that surround them relax their endeavours to procure new articles of convenience: foreign inventors, and ingenious *Europeans* were therefore called in, who laid before the *Persians* such samples as served to guide their imitating genius. Many eminent masters, who were known to excell in their
pro-

professions, were also borrowed from several other countries.

The *Persians*, in fact, made great improvements in several arts. Gold is to this day wrought by them in the highest perfection : at *Yezed*, brocades are wove, of which the inch is valued at twenty-four ounces of silver* : the *Persian* carpets are deemed an ornament in all the kingdoms of the universe : the half transparent earthen wares were found both harder and their colours brighter than those of *Chinteking* : the *Persian* turners and tanners their pewter and copper vessels their arms, bows and steel works, soon rivalled and even surpassed

* *Chardin's*, T. V.

all other eastern manufactures. Their silks became, in a short time, the richest article of exportation, which brought yearly 420,000 pounds of silver into the empire. All these sources amply refunded the sums that were sent abroad, for real necessities, or for the superfluities of magnificence, which accumulates numberless and unlimited wants: and both the nation and the sovereign acquired new stores of riches.

Nor was the emperor less careful of the pleasurable improvements. He ordered royal gardens to be laid out at *Schiras*, and soon after at *Tabris* and at *Ispahan*. Lofty rows of shady *Chinars*, clear and cooling canals, high jetting fountains, rich fruit-trees were procured
for

for the recreation of the people ; and no *Persian* was to be denied the pleasure of these gardens, nor the enjoyment of the fruit that had been planted for the public utility.

Persia felt gradually its rising prosperity ; and favourable accounts were brought from every province. The subterraneous conduits, which are *Persia's Nile*, and without which the whole empire would be an arid waste, were now repaired : these conduits, by an art peculiar to that nation, and which necessity had taught them, were in many places led whole days journeys, twelve fathoms under ground. Several springs

* *Della Valle* T. II.

had been discovered in the mountainous parts of *Persia*, by which large tracts of land, that had before been barren, were now made fertile. The plains around the *Bendemir* and *Senderud* and other *Persian* rivers, were now become unbounded and luxuriant gardens, since the thirsty soil had copiously imbibed those cooling and prolific waters. These lands were soon inhabited by the many strangers, who, labouring under the iron rods of tyrants, panted for the happiness of living under a milder government. The books in which the tributary lands were entered according to the order and number of the water ducts, daily increased. The revenue of the crown augmented, together with the felicity of the subjects.

Ufong

Ufong resolved upon another progress, which proved both toilsome and highly dangerous—But no difficulty could deter the active prince from any of his duties, which he considered all as absolutely indispensable. He bent his course straight towards *Kerman*: this province was a mere arid desert, where the roads were every instant buried under the gathering eddies of wafted sands. The water *Ufong* wanted on his journey was carried with him upon camels; but he provided, that none after him should meet with the difficulties he had encountered. He caused the few scanty springs that dribbled from the distant rocks, to be cautiously dug up; and public resting-places to be erected near each of them, according

ing to the eastern custom. The roads were marked with lofty pillars, which were placed so near each other, that the next could always be discerned. After having been seventeen days exposed to the scorching sun, and deprived of every conveniency of life, he arrived at *Kerman*, a large and scattered village.

His generous views were soon accomplished. Multitudes of *Guebres* forsook the territories of the *Patans** and *Ballushes*†, and sought a tranquil life under *Ufong*'s happy sway. Their diligence improved the soil, and the land

* Nations in the mountains between *Persia* and *Multan*.

† Nations between *Kerman* and *Sind*.

gradually

gradually assumed the aspect of a garden. Even the wilderness was seen overspread with numerous flocks of sheep; which, when fed upon green herbage, dropped their fine wool, and afforded *Persia* an increase of wealth that equalled nearly the produce of her silk; for the light stuffs made of this wool, came in as high repute as the most valuable silks. *Ufong* saw also with pleasure the fine earthen ware that was here manufactured.

A difference that had arisen in this province between the emperor's delegate and the *Banians*, demanded *Ufong's* interposition. The delegate had summoned this most ancient people to appear in arms in their appointed turns,

and go through the regular exercises. The *Banians* abhor all bloodshed, and of course all arms and implements of war. *Ufong* was aware of their great utility to the empire, and would not consent to force them to a duty that shocked their conscience. He released the pacific people from the military duties in consideration of a small pecuniary retribution; which, being imposed on every head, was afterwards distributed among the *Persians* who had alone the charge of bearing arms. The *Banians* fell at the emperor's feet, and paid grateful homage to the successor of *Cyrus* and *Gustaspus* *.

* *Darius* son of *Hydaspes*.

From *Kerman*, *Ufong* travelled through other sandy deserts, and came to *Gomron*. He saw the *Hing* shrub*; and the patient *Guebre*, daily severing a panel from the naked root, which afforded the precious juice so highly valued in *India*, that soon became an additional source of riches to the *Persians*.

But the natural vigour of the prince, though inured to every fatigue, was

* It is no more than a surmise of the translator, that what is in the original called *Hingsebstau* is the shrub called by the *Persians* *Hilit*, from whence the *Hing* or *Asa Fœtida* is extracted, of which great quantity is sent to *India*. See *Chardin*—The name as it stands in the original is not to be met with in any work either of *Phythology* or *Pharmacy*.

not however able to resist the morbid influence of the sultry atmosphere, the fetid waters, and the noisom exhalations of the heated earth. At *Gomron*, at the time when he proposed to visit the pearl fishery at *Babrein*, he was attacked by a dangerous fever. The pining monarch was speedily conveyed to the palm-groves at the foot of the mounts *Genau* and *Gerun*; where the air is pure and wholesome, the soil refreshed by abundance of clear purling streams, and where a constant spring adorns the face of nature. He arrived scarce breathing in that delicious spot; but the skilful physicians of the neighbouring *Lar*, * by means of the citrons

* *Della Valle* speaks also favourably of them.

of that warm region, and the reviving juices of cooling melons, soon checked the progress of the malignant fever; the change of air likewise contributed gradually to allay the fire that consumed the vital spirits of *Ufong*.

The report of the emperor's danger was immediately spread all over *Persia*, and busy fame soon after proclaimed his death.—All *Persia* shuddered at the irreparable loss. Many generations had pined away under cruel masters; and the oldest *Persian* remembered no prince that had not been a tyrant. And should the darling sovereign now be taken from them, whose first years shewed as the morning dawn, that forebodes a genial day, in which an enlivening sun

promises to dart its radiant beams over the whole prospering empire ? The mothers called up their infants to mourn with them. “ We must go
 “ hence before you ; but he goes now
 “ also, he who, after our deaths, would
 “ have been your kind your careful
 “ parent ! And must he die ? the just,
 “ the wise, the good, the victorious,
 “ the perfect image of the Godhead !”
 Hundreds of swift-footed messengers ran from all parts of *Persia* to fetch tidings of their emperor’s illness : all labour was suspended ; an anxious expectation hung over the affrighted nation, as if the universal doom impended.

The dreadful news could not be concealed from the empress. “ I will go,”
 said

said she, " and breathe my last in his
 " expiring arms." No power could
 prevent her undertaking this dangerous
 journey, which no human efforts could
 facilitate. She was carried in a palan-
 kin over passes, where neither horses
 nor camels could ascend the craggy
 steep — She hastened, with alternate
 bearers, and without allowing herself
 the least repose, o'er terrific mountains,
 stupendous precipices, through the nar-
 row paths that hang tremendous o'er
 the beetling rock and dread abyss
 impervious to the sight. She drank
 the bitter waters which nature sparingly
 affords: she faced the parching winds
 near *Lar*, which oft, as fiery dragons,
 smite the timid travellers with in-
 stantaneous death. She copiously in-

haled the sultry and suffocating vapours * that ascend from the infected soil; and breathed the saline air that causes thirst unquenchable. At *Carestan* she crossed undaunted the treacherous *Bendemir*, which frequently o'erflows on a sudden as a wide ocean, and drowns in a few hours the whole adjacent country. With incredible dispatch she arrived at the palm groves, and flew to the embraces of her yet feeble lord. "—Now will I live," cried she, "now that my eyes once more behold my *Ufong*."

The emperor's feeling heart was tenderly affected at these warm testimonies

* *Chardin's travels.*

his peoples love: nor could he behold, without the softest emotions, the faithful anguish of his beloved consort, boldly surmounting every difficulty, and superior to every danger. — Her fond caresses, her kind and careful tendance, her assiduous endeavours to procure him every refreshment, seemed to revive his spirits. He recovered by slow degrees; and though yet faint and much reduced, was soon after conveyed to *Schiras*.

Here all *Persia* assembled. — All the provinces sent their men of greatest note to congratulate their recovering monarch, and wish him a long continuance of those happy days that were the golden times of *Persia*. They brought

brought the pure and zealous offerings of the peoples faithful hearts; and the fervour of their emotions beamed from their tear-resplending eyes. A thousand rejoicings of various kinds, were now the sole employments of the exulting nation; and universal thanks ascended to the Most High from every temple of his different votaries.

Scherin, the friend of *Ufong*'s early youth, had, with his fortune, adopted the *Persian* customs. He maintained a numerous *Harem* composed of the choicest *Georgian* and *Circassian* beauties, and found his greatest happiness in their sensual endearments. Most cordially did he love the emperor — One
of

of the evenings *Ufong* spent alternately in friendly converse, *Scherin* begged he would attend to a question from a sincere and faithful servant.

“ What can *Ufong* not hear from
 “ *Scherin*? what can *Ufong* deny him?
 “ Am I become so low, so despicable
 “ that pride should triumph over my
 “ gratitude?” *Scherin* bowed respectfully — “ We offer joyful thanks to
 “ the almighty *Tien* for the preservation
 “ of *Persia*’s only comfort ; and like-
 “ wise for having granted heirs to
 “ *Ufong*’s throne, who, we may hope,
 “ will one day emulate the virtues of
 “ *Ufong* and of *Zengis*. But the gene-
 “ ral tranquility of the universe rests
 “ upon few heads. How soon may
 “ the

“ the *Abyssinian* malady wither the
 “ blooming flow’rets, before their time
 “ of bearing fruit for *Persia*? Why does
 “ the emperor, in his sprightliest youth,
 “ renounce a privilege which all the
 “ eastern monarchs have enjoyed even
 “ before the days of *Cyrus*? why does
 “ he confine the hopes of *Persia* and
 “ of all nations, to one only con-
 “ sort? why does he not establish
 “ the race, not now of *Zengis* but of
 “ the glorious *Ufong*, on a numerous
 “ progeny, which nature seems to offer
 “ to his wishes?”

“ My *Scherin*,” smiled the emperor,
 “ gives me an honest proof of his true
 “ friendship: he longs to see *Ufong*
 “ as happy as himself. But that wish
 “ is

“ is already accomplished. *Ufong* finds
 “ his greatest bliss in the sweet converse
 “ of an only beloved one, whose
 “ charms suffice to enamour him;
 “ in whom the most refined manners,
 “ education, wit and knowledge shine
 “ forth superior, and raise her far
 “ above the fairest of the purchased
 “ slaves, who are taught nothing but
 “ the easy cloying arts of dalliance.”

“ But *Scherin* is versed in the history
 “ of the *Chinese* revolutions; he knows
 “ the downfall of dread *Timur*’s off-
 “ spring. He has seen with me at
 “ *Bagdad*, the ruins of the once stately
 “ palace of the *Caliphs*: he has also
 “ visited with me the western states.
 “ *Scherin* may remember, that within
 “ these

“ these many centuries, one only royal
 “ house of the *Nazarene* princes has
 “ been extinguished by the sword;
 “ and this merely through the irrecon-
 “ cilable animosity of an enthroned
 “ priest: but that, in general, the
 “ reigning families among them either
 “ subside in the peaceful possession of
 “ the crown their ancestors acquired;
 “ or, like the race of *Capet*, still
 “ flourish unshaken, through a num-
 “ ber of succeeding ages.

“ Oft have I reflected why in
 “ *China*, in the civilized the learned
 “ *China*, the twenty-first imperial line
 “ should now already wield the scepter?
 “ How so many deified races, with all
 “ their

“ their numerous spreading branches,
 “ could so easily be extirpated by the
 “ usurping sword? How an audacious
 “ slave of the aspiring *Bonzes* could, with
 “ so little difficulty, expel the sons of
 “ *Zengis*? The same question I apply
 “ to the *Caliphs*, the *Gafnewides*, and
 “ all the royal lines in *Asia*; of which
 “ not one has yet maintained itself two
 “ whole centuries in the quiet possession
 “ of a throne.

“ The son of an hero, who through
 “ his high deserts hath brought a scepter
 “ into his family, assembles an *Harem*.
 “ He finds in the embraces of his fair
 “ ones, a pleasure that can much easier be
 “ acquired, than the difficult art of pro-
 “ viding for the welfare of a people.

“ The

“ The prince insensibly begins to slum-
 “ ber; but still rouses at times, and
 “ dares to break from the luxurious
 “ arms of his ensnaring beauties.—His
 “ son sleeps sounder; and the next suc-
 “ cessor awakes no more. The monarch
 “ is a youth even in decrepid age;
 “ what should be his recreation, be-
 “ comes his business — The eunuchs,
 “ the *Wazirs*, the chiefs of his life-
 “ guard, rule in his name. All man-
 “ ner of oppressions are freely prac-
 “ tised, under the sanction of the selfish
 “ gift-accepting great. The injured
 “ subject finds no redress; never has
 “ he beheld the emperor’s face, never
 “ has he experienced the kind influ-
 “ ence of his lenient hand. Envy and
 “ fear suggest the ruin of the protec-
 “ tors

“tors of the people. The feeble so-
 “vereign desires no longer to place
 “warlike commanders at the head of
 “his army; he dreads their influence.
 “Every limb of government is ener-
 “vated; the hearts of the people are
 “alienated. Here a *Turk*, a *Buide* arises
 “the hereditary lord of the once wor-
 “shipped *Caliph* : yonder a *Tshu* over-
 “throws the irresolute *Tau Wang Ti-*
 “*mur*. Among the martial *Usbecks*, one
 “descendant of *Timur* voraciously de-
 “vours the other. Was not *Ulugbeg*
 “the wife lately cut off by the hands
 “of a perfidious parricide? Where
 “then is the great advantage of many
 “wives, and of a numerous progeny?

“ *Ufong* hopes that the young *Dshu-*
 “ *neid* will, under the careful instruc-
 “ tion of wise and virtuous men, and
 “ the persuasive admonitions of his
 “ excellent mother, rise up a glorious
 “ prince, and soon efface the memory
 “ of *Ufong* : he flatters himself his race
 “ will never be tainted by the crime
 “ of fratricide.—And a good education
 “ is, in his opinion, the best support
 “ of a sovereign and hereditary line.”

The heart of *Scherin* was not con-
 vinced; the soft venom of sensuality
 had totally subdued it : but his under-
 standing could not suggest an an-
 swer.

He ventured however another attack
 upon his magnanimous friend. “ How

“ is it possible,” said he, “ that *Ufong*’s
 “ vigour can long resist the labour
 “ he daily undergoes? will not the
 “ years of a shortened life amount to a
 “ greater loss of useful hours than those
 “ he now denies to a due and neces-
 “ sary recreation?—And is the throne
 “ a place of rigorous punishment,
 “ that all repose should be thus banished
 “ from it; and that no joy, no relaxation
 “ should ever approach the exhausted
 “ monarch?

“ This my friend and I ought to
 “ have considered ere we marched
 “ out of *Anah*; when we suffered our
 “ hopes to soar up to the throne of
 “ *Persia*; when we first aspired to the
 “ sway of so many millions of our
 “ fellow

“ fellow beings. ’Tis now too late
 “ to decline a labour that is become a
 “ duty.—But I will here freely unfold to
 “ thee the secret of my heart. I feel
 “ no oppressive weight, the crown is
 “ no ponderous burden to me. I
 “ look upon every hour as a favour
 “ the Supreme Being pours down upon
 “ me; but pours in single drops,
 “ that I may not lavish many at a time:
 “ these hours are numbered; they are
 “ debts I have contracted with the Al-
 “ mighty, for which I am accountable.
 “ No ambition prompts me to aggran-
 “ dize my name: the desire of fame
 “ after my death, strikes me with its
 “ despicable meanness. But each hour
 “ shall be dedicated to some use; each
 “ moment will I strive to do some
 “ good;

“ good ; each thought shall be direct-
 “ ed to *Persia's* welfare.—Thus I re-
 “ joice each gladfome morn, as the sun,
 “ conscious of its benign influence ; and
 “ cheerfully enter the career of a new
 “ revolving period, which I hope to
 “ signalize by some beneficent deed.
 “ Thus I rejoice each tranquil even-
 “ ing ; when, reflecting on the closing
 “ day, I see it sparkling with many acts
 “ of public utility. Thus shall I, in
 “ my old age, when the world forsakes
 “ me, look back with pleasure on my
 “ well-spent life ; and when the ap-
 “ pointed hour arrives, shall close mine
 “ eyes in peaceful slumber. The field I
 “ shall then quit will not appear a barren
 “ desert, thickset and rugged with the
 “ thorns of slothfulness and vice ; but

“ a fertile garden, in which I have laboured with success; and, with a sweating brow, have earned the fruits I owed as a quit-rent, to the Lord from whom I held my throne in feudal servitude.”

At length the deputy, whom the emperor had sent with *Zeno*, returned. He brought dispatches from the *Venetian* senate and from *Zeno*, which contained fresh cautions and increasing apprehensions at the new victories of the *Osman*s. A young *Nazarene* monarch had waged successful war against the age-stricken *Morad*, and compelled him to a pacification. To this the peaceful *Morad* had been the readier inclined, as he had now resolved to fix his son on the *Os*

man throne. The Christian king*, at the request of a mighty priest, broke the plighted treaty, and penetrated as far as the *Black Sea*. The *Jenjisberies* were not yet acquainted with their new monarch; they feared his arm would not be able to bear up against the valour of the warlike *Hunniad*. They obtained of *Morad* that he should once more appear at the head of the *Osmans*. *Makmud* modestly submitted, descended from the throne, and fought again under his father's banners. In a decisive action the *Osmans* gave way, and *Morad* saw himself on the brink of ruin. He invoked the God whose sacred name the Christians had attested in the broken

* *Uladiſlaus* king of *Poland* and *Hungaria*.

treaty: he prayed that heaven would manifest a sign of its abhorring such treacherous perfidy, and thus deter other princes from infringing the engagements which the name of the great God of Hosts had solemnly confirmed. The daunted *Jenjitsberies* returned to the charge: the king was slain, and the dreaded *Hunniad* fell into the hands of the *Turks* *. *Morad*, after the victory, had again abdicated the throne; and both sultans had given an instance, uncommon in the east, that filial duty could equal paternal love, and both be superior to the allurements of a throne.

The young *Turkish* monarch was born in the camp, and was as fiery as his

* The battle of *Varna*.

father had been moderate. He thirsted after fame and conquest, and it was not doubted but that his first enterprize would be the final destruction of the *Byzantine* empire. *Venice* saw the thundering storm approaching, and once more warned the emperor.

The republic sent him models of several new inventions to render the dreadful effects of the artillery still more formidable, to fire the small arms with greater rapidity, and to throw out of large brass mortars heavy balls, pregnant with fire and ruin. Some armourers from *Brescia* came also with the deputy, whom *Ufong* disposed of in his new school of useful arts—But the *Persians* retained their bows, which they made

made in greater perfection than any other nation; and which, they said, had once already conquered *Asia* under *Cyrus*; and under *Nushirwan* had spread terrific horrors even to the gates of *Rome*. The heavy ordnance was still less relished by this prejudiced people, nor could any encouragement induce them to practise its use and management.

News more dismal came from the east. The old steward of the venerable *Liewang* arrived, and instantly repaired to his friend *Scherin Chan*. “ I have
 “ writings,” said he, “ and packets for
 “ the emperor; but first prepare his
 “ mind, prepare the heart of *Liosua*
 “ for the woeful tidings.”

Ufong

Ufong could not be oppressed by sorrow; but the empress, whose health had suffered repeated shocks in her fatiguing journey to the palm groves, could not be too cautiously informed.—She was told that *Liewang* was ill. “Alas he is dead!” cried the affected daughter, and sunk half-fainting on a sofa. It was now in vain to conceal the evil from her. *Liewang* had ended his multiplied days in the native city of the wife, where he had also first breathed the vital air. Before his decease, he had sent the table of his lineage to the empress. “’Tis hers now,” said he, to “pay due homage to her progenitors;” “she is far more to me than a son.” He transmitted to the emperor some writings of *Kong-fu-see* on the art of govern-

government, with his own annotations; and to the empress several *Chinese* rarities. “*Tien*,” said he in his letter, “has made choice of *Ufong* for great and glorious purposes; why else is he endowed with such uncommon talents; and especially with the greatest of all virtues, that of directing his shining faculties to useful objects, and to the good of mankind?” He assured his daughter of his unvaried love: her name was the last word his faltering lips pronounced.

Liesua felt the sad comfort of a tender heart, in busying herself with the cause of her regret. She wished to know every circumstance that had attended *Licwang*’s demise.

‘ Calm

‘ Calm and resigned, he died as *Kong-*
 ‘ *fu-see,*’ answered the steward, ‘ his
 ‘ strength had long diminished ; and
 ‘ it appeared visibly, that the droop-
 ‘ ing state of the empire, and a secret
 ‘ languor, impaired his vigour more
 ‘ than the number of his years. The
 ‘ last morning, after a restless night,
 ‘ he ordered the table of his lineage to
 ‘ be brought him, from his hall of
 ‘ ancestors. He perused the many
 ‘ illustrious names, which in the space
 ‘ of thirty generations graced the ta-
 ‘ ble : he dwelt some time, with
 ‘ smiling complacency, on the great
 ‘ *Kong-fu-see.*’—“ Now ends my line,”
 ‘ said he, “ perhaps my male-descendants
 ‘ had not been worthy of their proge-
 ‘ nitors.

“ nitors. But I leave a daughter ; she
 “ is worthy of them —Bless her, great
 “ Lord of heaven.—She was a duteous
 “ child: she piously fulfilled every ob-
 “ ligation, and conformed to every rule
 “ of her wise ancestor.”

‘ Thus employed, the venerable
 “ sage grew weary ; he felt his spirits
 “ drooping. “ My days are spent,” said
 “ he in broken accents ; “ Thou know-
 “ est, O *Tien*, whether I have employed
 “ them according to thy will ; but thou
 “ knowest also the frailty of human na-
 “ ture : none of us are wise at all hours ;
 “ none of us perfectly resemble the
 “ image of the sage thou hast sent us
 “ for our imitation. But thou favourest
 “ the willing : extend to me also thine

“ indulgent mercy.” — Thus he ex-
 ‘ pired, without fear, without uneasi-
 ‘ ness, without a pang or doleful groan :
 ‘ even as the ripe fruit of *Litshi* when
 ‘ nature calls it from the bending bough,
 ‘ or as the sun descends into the placid
 ‘ ocean.’

Liosua, with the emperor’s leave, assumed the deepest mourning. She caused a room to be prepared with solemn dignity for the reception of the lineage table, which, with all its appendages, had been sent her from *China*. Here she likewise deposited her books; and hither she daily resorted to bewail her loss, and feed her soul with the noble examples of her worthy ancestors.

But

But *Ufong* found that the concerns of the empire required his constant activity, and continued therefore to dedicate every moment to the cares of government. “ Joy of my heart,” said he, tenderly embracing his *Liosua*, “ mourn over thy loss ; but mourn “ regardful, that without thee nothing “ can alleviate the burden of thy *Ufong*’s “ life.”

A mandarin of the learned class had accompanied the steward of the worthy *Liewang* ; he was descended from *Kong-fu-see*, but seemed poor. A *Chinese* subject in a foreign court is so uncommon an object, that *Ufong* noticed the stranger, and perceived in him some engaging qualities — One of the even-
ings

ings *Ufong* bestowed on his intimates, he asked the mandarin, what could have induced him to leave his civilized country, and seek refuge among a people, which, from his earliest infancy, he must have considered as barbarous and inhospitable ?

Oel-fu answered : “ Barbarism can-
 “ not prevail where *Ufong* bears the
 “ sway. —I was born at *Kio-foe*, the
 “ city of the *Wife*, in the province
 “ *Shang-ton* : I was bred to the sci-
 “ ences, and mounted the usual de-
 “ grees—I must intreat,” continued he
 submissively, “ if the emperor will
 “ hear my story, that I may be allowed
 “ to speak without reserve. Every task
 “ appeared to me too easy, and no
 VOL. II. E “ exami-

“ examination rigorous enough. The
 “ work of an whole year I should have
 “ accomplished in less than an hour,
 “ to acquire the knowledge after which
 “ my soul thirsted. I endeavoured to
 “ fulfil the twelve duties; and, as I
 “ wrote much, I extolled virtue a-
 “ bove all things, and recommended
 “ it as the surest path to real and per-
 “ manent felicity. Though young, I
 “ was soon distinguished; but, pre-
 “ ferment was denied me. If a place
 “ was vacant in polite literature, then
 “ was I an *astronomer*; if in the
 “ civil offices, then said they, *he is a*
 “ *poet*.

“ At length, the post of a literary
 “ mandarin became vacant in a pro-
 “ vince

“ ‘vince’ far distant from my native
 “ town, where I was a perfect stranger.
 “ I was appointed.—I laboured, with
 “ unwearied assiduity, to satisfy the
 “ expectations of the *Zongtu*. The
 “ office of censor of books was given
 “ me. I was to read, and abstract them;
 “ and to mark those which I approved
 “ of: I drew a blue circle round the
 “ name of the author whose work I
 “ censured, and a red circle signified
 “ my approbation.”

‘ I acquitted myself to the best of my
 ‘ abilities —Humanity, however, of-
 ‘ ten induced me to spare my blue
 ‘ pencil, and to make more use of the
 ‘ red than strict justice seemed to
 ‘ allow; yet, as it became known

‘ that I was the literary cenfor, I was
 ‘ furiously assailed and almost over-
 ‘ whelmed with vindications, confuta-
 ‘ tions, and scurrilous libels. A friend
 ‘ advised me either to lay down my
 ‘ pencil, or to reject the censuring colour.
 ‘ Happily I chose the former ; for the
 ‘ *Zongtu*, who had conferred the of-
 ‘ fice on me, was already determined
 ‘ on my expulsion. “ He flatters,” said
 ‘ the grave personage, “ and forgets his
 ‘ duty towards the public.”

‘ I came into another province where
 ‘ a fit employment had been promised
 ‘ me—But the *Bonzes* rose up against
 ‘ me, and the *Zongtu* was devoted to
 ‘ them. “ The man denies the ex-
 4 “ istence

“istence of a God,” cried they, and
 “my infant fortune vanished on a
 “sudden. The *Bonzes* spread a thou-
 “sand defamatory reports concerning
 “me.

“I comforted myself in the con-
 “sciousness of my innocence; and
 “repaired to *Fokien*, where the *Bonzes*
 “were held in detestation. The
 “*Zongtu* admitted me among the
 “number of his friends; I was the
 “companion of his evening hours:
 “but he was himself an unbeliever,
 “and had no faith in *Tien*: according
 “to his tenets, there was no judge of
 “man, and no difference between good
 “and evil. He considered me as a fol-

“ lower of *Laoking* : but as I would
 “ not deny that I adored the Almighty
 “ *Tien*, and preferred virtue to vice, I
 “ was here also soon discarded. The
 “ *Zongtu* demeaned himself so low, as
 “ to write against me in the most far-
 “ castic language, although he had ne-
 “ ver read my works.

“ I went to *Pekin*, and was there
 “ employed in state affairs — I was in-
 “ trusted with writings of the greatest
 “ import. I was to assert the rights
 “ of the empire to the isles *Liu Kiu* in
 “ opposition to the claims of *Nipon*—
 “ Now, thought I, have I obtained the
 “ confidence of my superiors : but my
 “ vanity was soon chastised. I had la-
 “ boured with all my might to invali-
 “ date

“ date the claims of *Nipon*, and it was
 “ hinted that I was a *Niponian*.

“ I gave myself up to the pursuit of
 “ the sciences, and hoped to find sure
 “ comfort in their solacing arms ; nor
 “ were my hopes deceived. I rejoiced at
 “ my new acquired treasure, which at
 “ once completed my felicity ; and of
 “ which no one, I thought, could now
 “ bereave me. But from this refuge also
 “ was I soon debarred—A league was
 “ made with *Nipon*. The courtiers,
 “ who favoured that empire, remem-
 “ bering how I had fought for *Taising*’s
 “ rights, became my declared enemies ;
 “ and I experienced on every occasion
 “ the effects of their cruel hatred and
 “ spiteful malice.

“ *Tien*, said I at last, does not speak
 “ to men by the tongues of mortals;
 “ the harbinger of his decrees is his
 “ sovereign guidance: he commands
 “ me to leave *China*, where I can find
 “ no favour. And whither could I
 “ fly but to the great pattern of wis-
 “ dom and of goodness?—*Liewang* had
 “ owned to me the high esteem he
 “ fostered for the son of his choice,
 “ whom he had intrusted with his sole
 “ and darling child,”

Ufong returned: “ To seek the re-
 “ ward of virtue among mortal men,
 “ is a vain pursuit. The wise daily
 “ lament the human passions and pre-
 “ dominant vices: were they to find
 “ by experience that their sketch is un-
 “ like

“ like the original, would they still la-
 “ ment ? I am beholden to the unfor-
 “ tunate *Oel-fu* for his confidence in thus
 “ seeking shelter and relief under my
 “ protection.” — *Ufong* employed the
Chinese in private affairs : he gave
 him matters to examine, which he was
 unwilling to intrust to any other ; and
 as the emperor always perused himself his
 draughts and projects, he soon perceived
 in *Oel-fu*, to whom *China* had imputed
 so many contradictory vices, an useful
 servant, and a valuable acquisition to
 to the empire. *Ufong* inferred the vir-
 tues of the mandarin even from his
 misfortunes. “ *Oel-fu* has steadily
 “ adhered to his persuasion, and
 “ has therefore alternately given of-
 “ fence to different parties, which
 “ never

“ never fought the public good, but
 “ merely to promote secret and selfish
 “ views. The great only incline to those
 “ time-servers, who always readily adopt
 “ with them such measures and opinions
 “ as bid fairest for their own pleasure
 “ or advantage.”

The emperor persevered, with indefatigable assiduity, to provide for *Persia's* welfare. The wise men, to whom he had committed the care of compiling the laws of *Nushirwan*, had now finished the important work. The emperor revised them with the utmost attention, and endeavoured to render the sense of every word so plain and evident, that no ambiguous meaning should even be implied. He procured, that they should all be simple, intimately connected and

concurrent; and that each decision should at once extend to many cases without taking any of them single. “ The
 “ legislator must have present to his
 “ mind every single instance; and
 “ frame his law in such a manner,
 “ that it may comprehend them all,
 “ and pronounce on that particular
 “ circumstance that constitutes the very
 “ nature of them.”—*Ufong* gave to all the laws a bias in favour of the poor, the orphans, and the people. “ The
 “ scepter is a sword in the emperor’s
 “ hand,” said he. “ The great are
 “ shielded by their own power: the
 “ laws are for the defenceless.” He exempted none from a strict obedience to these laws. The priests, the soldiery, the emperor’s domains, and his prerogatives

gatives were all amenable to the same tribunal that sentenced the meanest peasant.—The judicial proceedings were limited to a certain number of days : they consisted in but few charges and replies : short respites were allowed. Presents were prohibited to the judges, under pain of infamy. *Usong* himself continued, twice every week, to preside at the supreme court of judicature.

The emperor soon after promulged the martial laws. They related merely to military affairs and discipline. In other disputes and infringements of the public peace, he subjected the regular troops to the usual courts : the ascendancy of the military power in the east, he saw, was far too great, and would become unsufferable if

if a soldier was to be sued for redress against another soldier. Obedience to the commander's orders, abstaining from all violence, and steadiness in danger, were duties strictly enjoined and cogently maintained. He that forsook the *Persian* banner, forfeited his life without hopes of mercy ; and straying from the ensigns, even after the signal of retreat, was likewise punished with instant death. *Ufong* knew, that even the freest nations in the west had made themselves invincible by their strict discipline : and that whatever is sure of being punished without remission or delay, will seldom enter into the minds of men.

Ufong thus effected that the presence of the soldiery, which, in other countries,

tries, was esteemed as ruinous as the invasion of an enemy, was by the *Persians* considered as a blessing. The *Persian* foldier could plentifully subsist upon his pay: a noble pride restrained him from extortion: he would have thought himself dishonoured, if he had plucked a fruit without permission—"Let the "*Osmons* plunder their own people: we "*are the protectors of the Persian empire.*"

Nushirwani was now in her tenth year. *Ufong* ordained that she should receive the same education that was intended for the young princes, when they should be arrived at a proper age. She was instructed in the history, the laws, and situation of the land; the labours of art, the produce of nature, the regulations

lations by which public order and tranquillity, affluence and justice are established and maintained; and in all the qualifications of an accomplished prince. The young princess possessed her father's fortitude, and bore his image, tempered by a resemblance and the mild nature of the meek *Liosua*. Nothing was too dark or intricate for her discerning penetration: and *Ufong* saw, with rapturous delight, that whatever throne fate had decreed unto his daughter, she was sure to be a blessing from on high upon a grateful people.

Ufong prepared now for another journey, and proceeded, with his usual retinue, to the north western provinces of *Persia*. Wherever he passed, he inspected

inspected the law records, and seldom found cause to amend any decree. He mustered both the regular forces and the militia: he found them both, the use of fire-arms excepted, dextrous and well-disciplined. He visited the workhouses of the artists, and collected the best information concerning the mines, the steel works of *Masanderan*, the turcoises of mount *Firuzkuh*, and several other sources of riches and convenience. He was delighted with the increase of the mulberry-trees, and the many new gardens and meadows he found in every province. New houses and edifices were now seen rising out of the many ruins the cruelty of former destructive sovereigns had occasioned. He left behind him, but few and unavoidable traces of his severity

rity; whilst innumerable instances of his munificence and goodness commanded the love and veneration of his admiring subjects.

In a solitary place on the road to *Masanderan*, he purposely strayed from his retinue, and rode up to a thatched cottage, that stood on the brow of a hill at some distance from the road. The hill was divided by low walls into many terrasses, which were all set with such herbs and shrubs as best suited their various positions: the novelty of the appearance struck the emperor at a distance: the diligence of the inhabitants excited his curiosity; he perceived an imitation of the *Chinese* industry. An hoary ancient sat among his numerous offspring, and gave them his in-

instructions for the culture, in which they
 busied themselves with emulous alacri-
 ty—"Father," said *Ufong*, "how many
 "are thy years?"—"Sir, they are
 "numerous: I have seen the tents of
 "*Timur* pitched on the plain from
 "whence thou comest."—"How were
 "the former times? what think'st thou
 "of the present?" "The reed may bend
 "and not be rooted up," said the
 old cottager. "I have seen *Timur*.
 "He governed as the *Lion*: he attacked
 "the prey that could resist him, but
 "spared the feeble. Princes succeeded;
 "they ruled as *Shakals**: they mangled
 "him also who made not the least
 "struggle; who, as a dead corpse,
 "patiently submitted to every injury.

* Ferocious animals which in the night dig up and devour dead bodies. *Hannaway*.

"Now

“ Now reigneth, methinks, the *Elephant*
 “ who lives on the produce of the land:
 “ he preys on no one, and yet is great;
 “ majestic—*Timur*’s warriors deprived
 “ us of our provisions. Under his pro-
 “ fligate successors, the innocence of
 “ our children was never secure against
 “ their lust and rapine. Now, the chil-
 “ dren, the cattle, the fruits of my labour,
 “ all are mine own. If *Ufong* lives, every
 “ part of this hill will soon become a fer-
 “ tile garden; and this hut a village, whol-
 “ ly inhabited by my thriving issue.”

The aged one was a *Mongolian*, who had
 been led prisoner into *China*, and had there
 learned the most profitable method of
 cultivating lands. *Ufong* smiled con-
 tented, and left with the industrious family
 proofs of his goodness and approbation;

but the *Tartar* was never informed that he had harboured the *Persian* monarch under his humble roof.

Usong hastened towards *Masanderan*, that he might traverse that province in the spring; when, refreshed by the cooling breezes and frequency of purling rills, it rises a perfect paradise. The flowers which art assiduously rears in other countries, the tulips that adorn the gardens of the *Turkish* monarchs, the hyacinths the pride of *European* florists, and all the beauties of the field, were here produced unfown, uncultured. The vines twined round the trees spontaneously, and though strangers to the sickle and the hoe, bore yet the most delicious grapes,

2

that

that afforded the best of wines.—Shady woods here crown the hills; whilst in most other parts of *Persia*, a parching drought destroys the verdure.—*Ufong* saw this province in the youthful gear of the most splendid season.

He quitted the direct road to avoid the desert, which he grieved to see extending over a great part of his empire*. He past through *Caswin*; and was obliged, notwithstanding the circuit he had taken, to climb over the steepest mountains, and penetrate through the most dangerous passes, before he could

* The *Caspian Sea* surges against the *Persian* shores, and renders the whole contiguous tract a swampy, noisom marsh.

reach *Esfereabad*. He ordered some fortifications to be raised there; and fixed an head quarter for a sufficient number of cavalry, to check the inroads of the turbulent *Hircanians*, and of the neighbouring savage *Turcomans*. He commended the diligence of the inhabitants who prospered in the flowery meads of *Reshd*, and acquired greater wealth than several entire provinces. He admired in *Gilan* the industry of the hale well-favoured women, who, in that fertile district, had undertaken a great part of the agriculture. He followed the *Caspian* shore, and turned further to the west. He ordered the delegate to restrain the extreme licentiousness of the mountaineers near *Kuawer*; where, from times immemorial, the most enormous vices had been

been practised; and where the inhabitants had lost all sense of decency and shame. Among the most criminal he established examples of his just abhorrence; and the others were menaced with total extirpation, if they continued longer to be a stain to *Persia's* honour. He transplanted thither a sufficient power of his christian *Georgians*, to enforce the measures of the civil magistracy. He crossed the famous *Araxis*, and visited *Shirwan* and *Schamackie*, situated too near the frontiers of the *Lesgians*.

At *Baku* he made a short stay, and thought it no mean occupation to view the wonders of nature on the half-isle *Okefra*. He delighted in all the curious productions of the creation. He saw

the many perpetual explosions of subterraneous fires; the sources of the white naphtha whose vapours, when once enflamed, are unextinguishable; the roaring sea, which constantly throws up the unctuous petrol; and the hill *Jugtopa*, from whose foaming brow continually issues a fattening loam, which sometimes falls into the air, not unlike a spouting stream of water*.

The ancient *Derbent* was the final term of this excursion.—Here *Ufong* received the *Lesgian* deputies. That warlike people, out of mere veneration for *Ufong*'s virtues, committed themselves to his protection, but cautiously reserved

* See *Kaempfer*.

their freedom, which in their inaccessible mountains had never yet been violated. He caused this city, the northern key of the empire, founded by the great *Alexander*, to be surrounded with strong ramparts, and the castle to be put in the best posture of defence. A considerable body of his *Curds* was quartered in it.

Once more over impervious and cloud-capt mountains, the emperor returned to *Ardevil* smiling in its flowery lawns, where many remains of ancient tombs of the fainted *Alids*, and the richest sheep pastures of the empire attract the traveller's notice.

Ufong,

Ufong, on his return, found his friend *Dfbuneid*, who had lost his venerable father, and had just then quitted his mourning for him. He presented to the emperor his son, the young *Haider*, the perfect image of the beautiful *Emeta*.

And now was *Ufong*'s felicity arrived at its highest pinnacle. Fate, that had led him from bondage to the *Persian* throne, decreed now, after he had sustained a prosperous fortune with so much dignity, to try his fortitude also in adversity. Soon after his return the *Abissinian Pock* * broke out at *Schiras*, and raged with a fury unknown for many years. Thousands of the finest women, and multitudes of children were carried

* *Small Pox.*

off—At length the murderous contagion penetrated into the emperor's palace. *Dfbuneid* and *Rustan*, his two hopeful sons, took the infection. *Liosua* valued not the danger of her own life; the fond mother could not be kept from the couch of her expiring infants: she tended them in their nauseous malady till their last hour: she drew in the poisonous vapours that exhaled from their putrid bodies. She was not infected; but her health was greatly impaired, and her tender frame visibly approached towards its final dissolution.

Ufong beheld, with consternation, the hopes of *Persia* thus vanishing on a sudden out of his arms. His only heir was now the noble *Nusbirwani*. He lamented
his

his loss more as an emperor who loves his people, than as a father who is bereaved of his generous offspring— He began to fear that all his labour would be lost, and that his empire would soon relapse into its former unhappy state. He saw no preventive against so great an evil but the marriage of his only daughter.

As with her hand, the emperor had likewise the disposal of the *Persian* scepter, he looked around him for a prince, who being worthy of her, gave also certain hopes that, under his sway, the prosperity of his people should suffer no diminution.

He

He rejected all sovereign princes.
 “ *Persia*,” said he, “ that is so faithfully
 “ attached to her sovereign, shall not
 “ become a province of another poten-
 “ tate; shall not be exposed to the rapa-
 “ city of foreign governors; who, not
 “ being her own sons, would consider
 “ her as a rich booty to which they
 “ had a lawful right.”

His own kindred the *Zengides*, he
 also excluded. The *Nowians* at his
 court had often grieved the heart of
 the just and generous monarch, which
 glowed with paternal love towards his
 people. These *Mongalians* had never
 learnt to curb their passions, and would
 not bend to the yoke of equitable
 laws. Their rough nature was incapa-
 ble

ble of the refined sensations, without which a prince can never be the *father of his people*.

The hopes of *Ufong* dwelt on the young *Haider* a descendant of *Ali* and of *Ismael*, who professed the same faith with the generality of the *Persians*, whom the *Hoffenides* and all the clergy would extol to the people as a precious gift of heaven, whom *Ufong* could hope by his instructions and guidance to form for the exalted station; and whose gentle disposition and elegance of form, he flattered himself, would contribute to establish his *Nushirwani's* happiness.

He first procured that the young princess should be acknowledged heiress of the throne.

throne. No *Persian* could refuse the monarch they all idolized : they knew him too well, to entertain a doubt, after he had declared in his proclamation, that he was so thoroughly convinced of the virtue and abilities of his daughter, that, without fear or hesitation, he ventured to propose her as his successor to the crown. He promised at the same time, that, in the choice of her future consort, the public welfare should be above all things consulted. He caused her name, as the next in succession, to be inserted immediately after his own in all the registers of state, in the courts of justice, and all the several departments of law, religion, civil magistracy, the army and the revenue—He next opened his mind to
the

the yet mournful *Liosua*; and, with a warm embrace, desired her to prepare the young princess for the determined nuptials; and to conduct matters in such a manner, that *Nushirwani*, without being herself exposed, might have an opportunity of observing the graceful dignity of the young *Alid*.

This happened at a private tilt that was appointed for the noblest youths in the interior courts of the imperial palace, under pretence of celebrating the proclamation of *Usong*'s daughter as the *Persian* heiress.

Nushirwani was in her thirteenth year: both her body and mind were far superior to the usual perfection of
that

that tender age : she was actuated by the warmest sensations and a feeling heart. None but amiable qualities appeared in the young *Alid* : he was four years older than the fair princess.

The empress watched the fittest moment to acquaint her daughter with the important change her father had resolved. “ *Nusbirwani*,” said the friendly mother, “ is surely capable and worthy “ to wield herself the scepter of the “ mighty *Ufong*; but the prejudices of “ nations must be complied with. The “ emperor has singled out a prince, who “ will alleviate to his heirs the weight “ of government. His choice unites “ all that can satisfy the wishes of the “ *Persian* empire, and the heart of his “ beloved daughter.”

Nushirwani blushed, and stood silent a while. She threw herself at her excellent mother's feet, and kissing her hand, bedewed it with some trickling tears. She begged a short interval to consider of an object, on which depended the fate and happiness of so many thousands.

The eyes of *Liosua* were far too penetrating not to perceive that this request was more than the mere effect of virgin modesty; that it proceeded from some objection the princess harboured in her breast against the intended marriage.

She would not however refuse her daughter, who was now emerged out of
of

of the state of infancy, the respite she entreated. " In eight days let *Nushirwani* declare her mind; but never shall I entertain a doubt of her obedience to the will of a wife and loving father, who is likewise her sovereign."

The appointed time was too soon elapsed for the distracted *Nushirwani*. She knelt again to her indulgent mother. " My hand and life are both the emperor's: when he commands me to sacrifice them both, I shall be ready to obey."

" And why speaks *Nushirwani* of her life?"

G 2

" Because

“ Because I cannot hope to live, if I
 “ must give my hand to *Haider*.”

The empress had often experienced in her daughter a firmness in which she resembled her courageous father. No braver chief would ever have led an army, if her sex had allowed her to bear arms. *Liosua* insisted to know what exception the princess had to the young *Alid*.

Long did *Nusbirwani* suppress her secret reluctance ; but she could not withstand her mother's urgent love. She confessed, at length, that whenever she should wed, the lord whose hand should take her plighted faith, should possess her whole unlimited affection ; but
 that

that she also claimed the return of an undivided heart. That she knew the freedom the eastern princes arrogate to themselves : but that from her infancy she had seen the emperor solely devoted to his beloved *Liosua*, who alone deserved every tender emotion of his heart ; that she had always observed how much the felicity of the empress depended on this dear distinction : and that herself, without this comfort, would be the most unhappy princess in the universe ; and the more miserable, the more her sensations for her consort were tender and sincere.

She had heard one of her women speak of the young *Alid*, before ever he could have aspired to the hand of

Nushirwani. *Sulimé*, she had been told, a *Circassian* beauty, whose mind is as accomplished as her form is exquisite, entirely possesses the heart of *Haider*. He has brought her with him even in his father's company, for without her he cannot live.—“ I mean to love my “ wedded lord,” continued the princess, weeping; “ without this hope the “ nuptial wreath would gall me more “ than the heaviest iron fetters. I cannot bear the prospect of being the “ loathed wife of a disgusted partner, “ whose heart is with another, whilst “ he bestows on me some forced caresses. “ Neither can I foresee the possibility “ of comfort, if, conscious of my rights, “ I was to seek revenge, and be the
“ enemy

“ enemy of him I had espoused as the
 “ promoter of my real happiness.”

This resolute language greatly perplexed the empress. She dismissed the young princess. “ Care shall be taken,” said she with a friendly earnestness, “ that *Nushirwani*’s obedience shall not
 “ be the cause of misery to her. But
 “ let her be mindful, that the views of
 “ *Ufong* are too important to be over-
 “ ruled by scruples, which may be pardonable in a private damsel, but are
 “ far too juvenile for the hereditary
 “ princess of the *Persian* empire.”

The emperor was entertained in the opinion that *Nushirwani* opposed to her mother’s counsels none but the usual

delays of bashful modesty ; and *Liosuia* sent one of her trustiest women for *Sulimé*. “ The empress desires to speak
 “ with the bright ornament of *Arabia*,”
 said the messenger ; and without allowing the dismayed *Circassian* time to utter a word, “ *Sulimé*,” continued she, “ can
 “ have nothing to apprehend from the
 “ well-known condescension of our
 “ gracious mistress ; but the interview
 “ is indispensably necessary.”

The beauteous favourite could not refuse obedience. She fell at the feet of the empress : “ Death is my due,” wept she. “ Shall *Sulimé*, a purchased
 “ slave, dispute the heart of a prince
 “ with the *Persian* heiress ?” for she
 had

had quickly guessed the cause of her being summoned before the empress.

“ The charming *Sulimé*,” said the mild *Liosua* with her all-conquering sweetness, “ obliges me, in thus unfolding to me the secret of her heart ; but I deserve her confidence. Hear me, beloved of *Haider* ; hear me, as a daughter hears a fond and anxious mother.

“ Never can *Sulimé* expect that *Dshu-neid* should deprive his race of the *Persian* throne that his son may totally devote himself to the love of a young beauty. The intended marriage will infallibly take place. The charms of the engaging *Sulimé* may, for a while, secure her the heart of the young *Haider* ;

“ *der* ; but what will be her fate ?—All
 “ *Persia* will detest the fascinating allure-
 “ ments of her beauty, by which the
 “ heiress of the empire, by which
 “ *Ufong*’s daughter is made unhappy.
 “ *Dshuneid* will strenuously exert his
 “ paternal authority, to tear a son out
 “ the arms of his beloved charmer.
 “ The whole world will join against
 “ *Sulimé* ; and nothing will befriend her
 “ but the single heart of a petulant,
 “ unguarded youth.—Is this heart sure
 “ to hold out against the indifference
 “ that succeeds enjoyment ; the united
 “ persuasions of parental, of matrimo-
 “ nial and of friendly love ? When
 “ once so many potent and awful mo-
 “ tives, and *Persia*’s sanguine wishes
 “ have prevailed, what will then be-
 “ come

“ come of *Sulimé*, whose heart can no
 “ longer forego the sweet careffes of fo
 “ amiable a lover ?

“ Yet *Sulimé* is as judicious as ſhe is
 “ beautiful. She will reflect that the
 “ love of a young man is but of ſhort
 “ duration ; and that when once for-
 “ faken by him, her remaining days
 “ will be a comfortleſs and dreary de-
 “ ſart. She will ſacrifice to the public
 “ welfare of an empire, a paſſion which
 “ the mere fickleneſs of youth may
 “ eaſily extinguiſh : and *Persia* has no
 “ boon, no honour that ſhe may not
 “ expect, if ſhe removes the impedi-
 “ ment that now obſtructs the general
 “ tranquillity of the empire.”

Sulimé

Sulimé listened attentively : she reflected a while ; but soon after respectfully kissing the garment of the empress, “ What am I,” cried she, “ that I should
 “ balance my fate with the fate of *Per-*
 “ *sia*? I shall implicitly submit to the
 “ commands of the great, the good
 “ *Liosua.*”

The empress retained her in the *Harem*, and conferred on her a considerable post at her court. The many favours she bestowed upon the fair *Circassian*, and the charms of *Sulimé* induced a grandee of the court to sue for her in marriage. She was portioned as a friend of the empress, and a permanent felicity rewarded the sacrifice of a youthful passion.

Haider

Haider loved his *Sulimé* with the fervour of a youth and of an *Arab*; but he dared not own his transports to his father, who contemplated with ecstasy the fortune of the *Alids*, the propagation of the true and only faith, and the throne of his descendants.—*Haider* presented his hand, without reluctance, to the fair *Nushirwani* : nor was she any longer averse to accept the comfort, whom *Ufong's* wisdom had selected for her.

She strove to gain the heart of the young prince ; and soon, through the united charms of her lovely features, and her enlarged mind, adorned with every accomplishment of wit and knowledge, ruled over it with absolute dominion.

Once

Once more did *Ufong* quit his residence. He traversed the eastern provinces, and reached as far as the important *Candabar*. He stopped at *Yezed*, famous for the beauty of its women; and situated, like an island, in the midst of sandy deserts. This province is also noted for its precious oil of roses, one of the most valued presents of the eastern sovereigns; and for the rich gold stuffs it manufactures. *Ufong* bought great quantities of these costly goods, which he was wont to do in every place where public institutions required his immediate countenance. He crossed the solitary *Segestan*, and reached the mountains of *Candabar*—Here he was visited by the princes of the *Afgans*, who voluntarily placed themselves under his protection, but reserved

reserved their entire independance. The emperor exerted all his natural affability, and dispensed numerous marks of his munificence among these warlike barbarians : nevertheless he caused the capital of this province to be environed with a triple circuit of strong ramparts, which took up the whole space between the mountains, and entirely commanded the passes into *India*—He also established a perpetual camp of some thousands of *Georgian* cavalry in the neighbourhood of that important fortress.—His wisdom pierced into futurity ; and he foresaw the danger that menaced the empire from that quarter, if ever the *Persian* scepter should fall into feebler hands.

Hindostan

Hindostan was, at this time, in the greatest confusion, and *Persia* might now easily have snatched some provinces from that distracted empire; but *Usong's* sentiments were both more generous and more wise. War he considered as a scourge of heaven, and the scene of unavoidable cruelties: nothing but the most urgent necessities could, according to his maxims, justify a prince who brought such misery upon mankind. He found, besides, that *Persia* was already too extensive; and that the mountains formed a natural barrier towards the east, beyond which, nothing but a blind ambition could ever prompt a *Persian* monarch to attempt a conquest.

The

The fatal period was now at hand, when *Ufong* was to experience the greatest of all disasters that had ever yet befallen him. *Liosua*, ever since her arrival in *Persia*, had languished under imperfect health; even the air of *Schiras* she found too sharp and mountainous: violent childbirths, and the loss of her father and of her lovely sons, had also made the deepest impression on her delicate constitution: without being affected by any sensible indisposition, she felt herself declining, and saw her final doom inevitably approaching.—As she knew the fondness of her consort, and looked upon the trouble of his generous mind as the greatest of all evils, she hushed her secret feelings; and, in his presence, brightened up with such attention, that though the emperor perceived his

charmer visibly decaying, yet either he attributed her infirmity to accidental causes, or flattered himself with a recovery that was however never to ensue.

She now herself requested that he would visit the important province of *Chorassan*, which, being situated on the remotest north-eastern frontiers, was never, during many years together, free from the inroads of the neighbouring *Usbecks*. About the same time was *Nushirwani's* delivery expected, and from her also did *Liosua* endeavour to hide the melancholy scene of her departing hour. She ordered herself to be conveyed to *Fagrabad*, a pleasure-garden; where, as she gave out, she hoped soon to recover: and the hereditary

hereditary princess, who was too far advanced in her pregnancy to travel, remained at *Schiras*.

The emperor sojourned sometime in *Chorassan*. He surveyed the large and fertile province, but lamented her wide extended sandy plains. He visited at *Meschet* the tomb of the *Iman Reza*, one of the chief *Alids*; and saw a large commerical town, capable of being made the intermediate staple of the treasures from *Bokbara* and *India*, and the labours of the *Persian* industry. He went to *Nisabur*, in whose vicinity he saw the turcoise rocks, and *Herat* famous for its carpets — Several *Usbeck* princes attended him: he received them with every mark of friendship; but was too

well apprized of the inconstancy of that people, to place any trust in them. The emperor secured *Marshirbar* with strong fortifications, and erected some inaccessible castles : he also established places of arms, where bodies of troops were to be held in constant readiness. He was now on his return to *Schiras*, when he received the most dreadful of all tidings.

Liosua, certain of her impending dissolution, still retained, in her pining state, the serene calmness of her unshaken mind. She ordered her rooms to be ornamented with fresh and odorous flowers, and chose garments of the softest colours. Every evening she caused some of her women to sing
in

in her bedchamber, and rehearse various kinds of music in her presence. She strove hereby to conceal from her attendants and from the court, the threatening state of her declining health.

She spent an whole day in writing; and sealed the letters. —The following night she was so feeble that she could rise no longer from her couch. She dismissed her attendants, and retained only those of her women in whom she most confided : “ Behold, fair *Sulimé*,
 “ the use of virtue! see with what tranquillity I quit the throne, and can
 “ be severed from what is far dearer to
 “ me than all the thrones, my beloved
 “ lord.

H 3

“ 'Tis

“ ’Tis thou, O venerable *Liewang* !
 “ ’tis thou hast taught me how to live,
 “ and how to quit this transient scene.
 “ Now do I feel the value of thy hea-
 “ venly precepts. —Receive, O *Tien* !
 “ thy grateful daughter, on whom thou
 “ hast poured down innumerable mer-
 “ cies ! Protect my *Nusbirwani* ! Reward
 “ the excellence which thou thyself hast
 “ placed in the noble *Ufong* ! ” —She said,
 and with a smile resigned her spirit.
Ufong had been the first object of her
 tender love : the last image that dwelt
 upon her fancy was her *Ufong*.

This dire event could not be now
 concealed. A swift messenger hastened to
 meet the emperor, and delivered into
 his hands this short and last farewell of
 the incomparable *Liosua*.

“ When

“ When *Ufong* breaks this seal *Liofua*
 “ will be no more.—O remember, grea-
 “ test of men! the many benefits thou
 “ hast received from *Tien*, and murmur
 “ not at my inevitable fate. This world
 “ is but the temporary stage on which
 “ the Supreme Ruler exerts his creatures,
 “ in the right use of the gifts he has be-
 “ stowed upon them: and ever has
 “ *Ufong* been as conspicuous in a ready
 “ inclination, as in the great qualities
 “ *Tien* has endowed him with.—Still,
 “ my friend my best beloved! still be,
 “ in the severest trials, a bright example
 “ of virtue to mankind: bear, with
 “ submissive resignation, the guidance
 “ of a never-erring Providence: bestow
 “ one faithful tear on thy departed
 “ *Liofua*; and then come forth to the
 H 4 multitude

“ multitude of thy people, and com-
 “ fort them, with the vigilant alacrity of
 “ a monarch, solely devoted to their
 “ welfare. — To wipe the tears from
 “ the eyes of the distressed will cheer
 “ thy generous soul, and be the source of
 “ thy permanent and genuine felicity.”

Ufong's steady heart could not with-
 stand this unexpected shock—Sequester-
 ed in a tent, in which he ordered no one
 to be admitted, he stood motionless and
 disconsolate—an whole day, and a suc-
 ceeding dreadful night, he stood in
 silent contemplation of his too heavy
 loss. He felt, with all the sensibility
 of the most tender heart, the value, the
 irreparable value of the treasure of which
 he was now deprived for ever. The
 remainder

remainder of his life appeared now a dreary waste, in which he had to wander forlorn and comfortless: where he had nothing to hope but toil without reward; laborious days, succeeded by gloomy solitary evenings; and where he should, every instant, miss the only friend to whom he could confide his every thought, and who was inexhaustible in means to alleviate his every care.

Dsbuneid, who had accompanied the emperor, could, in the first days, find no admission to his heart.—*Ufong* spoke not: *Ufong* wept not: he brooded with secret complacency on his unrelenting sorrow. *Nushirwani* might have administered some consolation; but she was
far

far distant, and her situation made it necessary to conceal from her as yet the melancholy news.

A sudden peal of thunder roused the *Persian* monarch from his lethargic sadness. Speedy couriers brought from the western frontiers of the empire certain advices, that the young *Mahmud* * had, after *Morad's* second abdication, made himself master of *Byzantium* by storm: that the last successor of *Constantine* had fallen in the defence of the sinking throne of *Greece*; and that all the *Osman* territories rang with triumphant shouts, with the fame of the young emperor of *Rome*, and

* *Mahomet* the second.

with the jubilant hopes of unlimited sway over the whole universe.

Ufong was now compelled to wean himself from the amusive sorrow, which he fondly indulged, as the duty of a heart not totally devoid of human feeling—He saw himself obliged to resume the helm, since the tremendous storm was now approaching. He did not return to *Schiras*, where the remains of the most accomplished of women had been interred with silent funeral pomp: he repaired to *Tabris*, and once more surveyed, with speedy diligence, the western frontiers of the empire. He increased the *Georgian* auxiliaries by fresh recruits. He appointed the number of the *Curdian* borderers at fifty thousand

thousand*. He ordered the great cast guns to be conveyed to *Wan* and *Irwan*; and that the annual land militia, consisting of sixty thousand armed *Persians*, should be augmented to twice that number. Double the number of the usual days were set aside, throughout the whole empire, for military exercises: and the armourers protracted the labours of the day by the addition of the night. *Ufong* sent deputies to *Alkabirah*, to admonish the drowsy *Circassian*, and inspire him with a sense of the imminent danger that menaced the whole world, and *Egypt* in particular. Messengers were dispatched to *Venice*, with a commission of the same import—*David* the

* Such was their number before *Shach Abbas*.
emperor

emperor of *Trebizond* became a new, although too feeble an ally.

The princess, who was incessantly making enquiries after her most excellent mother, was now informed of her demise. She bore her grief with less fortitude than was expected.—Generous hearts are less affected by their own sufferings, than by the sorrows of those they love.—’Twas long before *Nushirwani* could recover her tranquillity. *Haider* was absent; her honoured father was surrounded with cares and dangers; and the thundering tempest that hovered in the west, seemed daily to be drawing nearer.

No

No sooner had she somewhat composed herself, but she craved the emperor's leave to follow him to *Tabris*. She embraced the knees of her disconsolate parent : “ Accept, my gracious “ lord!” said she melting in tears, “ accept “ the loyal services of thy respectful “ daughter; let them in part supply “ the heavy loss which can never “ be totally repaired.” The emperor cherished his daughter as a father, and highly valued her for her distinguished virtues. He accustomed himself to take alternately his evening repasts with her : and *Nushirwani* collected from all countries fresh intelligence and curious rarities, wherewith she strove to divert the emperor for some moments from his toilsome cares.—The court continued long at *Tabris*.

The conquest of all *Grecian Europe*, and several heavy campaigns on the *Danube*, entertained the fiery spirit of *Mahmud* some years longer; during which *Persia* enjoyed a precarious tranquillity, which was, however greatly embittered by the certain prospect of an impending war.

The young *Persian* heiress had frequent opportunities of hearing the personal qualities and accomplishments of the lady *Martha*, the *Despoina* or imperial princess of *Trebizond*, highly commended: her temper, she was told, was gentle and affable; her shape charming and elegant; her features beautiful in the *Grecian** style; and the misfor-

* That nation has been famous of old, and is still renowned for the greatest elegance of features.
tunes

tunes that menaced her illustrious family, had inspired her with an humility that may seldom be expected in a princess. *Nushirwani* thought of an expedient to acquire an amiable friend for herself, to screen that unfortunate lady from the inevitable ruin her house was now exposed to, and to divert the emperor's thoughts from his gloomy meditations: the prudent daughter wished also to secure the *Persian* succession—She undertook the marriage of the *Trebizontine* princess with the emperor.

She daily expressed, in her conversations with her father, her earnest desire that the heavy cares of government might be mitigated by the pleasure

which a tender affection can only procure to noble minds. She succeeded at length to persuade the emperor; and *David* received the offer by an ambassador. Though *Trebizond* was much reduced, *David* kept still in view the glory of *Constantine*: the first condition he imposed on the marriage was, that the princess should be allowed the free exercise of the christian worship. *Ufong* was not superstitious: he found in the christian faith the fundamental doctrines of all religions; he found the adoration of an only God who governs all, a future life, eternal rewards for the good, and punishments adequate to God's infinite justice for the wicked and profane.

VOL. II.

I

The

The truly amiable *Despoina* was conducted to the emperor; and the marriage rites were solemnized in *Nushirwani's* apartment, by the *Armenian* patriarch of *Ekmiasin*. *Ufong* found in her a meek and virtuous consort: but her education had restrained her mind within too narrow limits: she was nicely addicted to the trifling rituals that constitute the less essential parts of true devotion; and was wanting in the knowledge that was requisite to animate the conversation and entertainment of the all-discerning *Ufong*. *Nushirwani* continued her constant friend, and supplied her want of cheerfulness and urbanity in familiar converse. *Martha* brought with her to the *Persian* court her sister *Eudoxia*, who was
yet

yet in the tender bloom of infant innocence.

Whilst the war with the *Osmans* seemed yet a while postponed, *Nushirwani* was happily delivered of a son; and this event greatly contributed to sooth the sorrow of the emperor. He gave to the young prince the name of *Ismael*, the author of the *Coreitshids* and of the race of *Mahomed* and *Ali*. The monarch saw now the succession to the throne established, and rejoiced to see so many imminent calamities thereby averted. — One single life, on such occasions, prevents the slaughter of millions, and frequently preserves an empire from destruction.

An unlucky incident accelerated the rupture with the *Osmans*. *Mahmud* had made war upon the sultans of *Caramania*: he had routed them, and possessed himself of their dominions. One of them, *Pir Hamet*, had escaped his barbarous fury, and fled for refuge to the generous *Usong*.

The proud and all-subduing *Mahmud* sent a warrior to demand the unfortunate prince: the audacious *Ozman* had even presumed to utter some harsh and threatening expletives.

The victorious *Usong* felt the indignity of this scornful proceeding. "The *Turcoman*," said he to his courtiers, "is still as much a clown, as he was in
Timur's

"*Timur's* days *." It galled him secretly that a prince, whose forefathers had, scarce two centuries before, subsisted on mere husbandry in the lawns of *Turkestan*, and had usurped a throne by perfidy and treason, should now thus rashly brave the son of *Zengis*, whose race was lost in the obscurity of primeval ages. — But *Usong* was a sage, and loved his people. He sent an embassy to the impatient *Mahmud*, and represented to him, that the *Port* of the *Persian* empire was the refuge of the world; and that his honour did not allow him to deliver up to certain

* *Timur* had spoken in the same manner of *Bajazeth*.

ruin, one who had thought so favourably of him, as to seek shelter under his protection. The emperor declared his ready inclination to live, in every other respect, in peace and amity with the sultan of the *Osmans*. He prayed that *Mahmud* would spare the provinces of *Caramania* and *Trebizond*; and rich presents accompanied this request.

The answer of the elated *Mahmud* was haughty and insulting: "he could never," said he, "consider as a friend, one who harboured his open enemy."—He reproached to the emperor, in bitter language, his alliance with the infidels; in whose total extirpation *Usong*, he said, was bound in justice to assist the sultan. He continued his ravages in
Cara-

Caramania, and seized on the wealthy *Tocat*. The *Osman* troops spared not the bordering *Curds*, nor the part of *Armenia* that was subject to *Persia*. The pathaw of *Amasia* entered also the dominions of the emperor of *Trebizend*.

Meanwhile a respectable embassy arrived from *Venice*. The plenipotentiary concluded a firm and lasting league with the emperor. He engaged, in the name of his sovereign, that the *Venetian* fleets should scour the coast of *Caramania*, attempt the sea-port towns, and force the sultan to divide his powers: that all such warlike implements as *Persia* could not fabricate her-

self, should be forwarded to the emperor from *Venice*.

No remonstrance could excite the fickle court of *Egypt* to guard against the general danger ere it would be too late to attempt an opposition — The *Nazarene* princes continued also to neglect their most important concerns, and to sacrifice to trivial advantages the public security of *Europe*.

Usong foresaw the toils and dangers of this war.—*Mahmud* had already advanced a select body of troops into *Caramania* under the command of his son *Bajazid* accompanied by an old and experienced general. The sultan followed in person with the victorious soldiery

soldiery that had fought in *Europe*, and constituted the flower of his army. The *Bosnians*, the inhabitants of the mountains between *Hungaria* and *Greece*, the *Epirots* and *Macedonians* are, as well as their countries and climates, known to be much hardier than the *Asiatics*. *Mahmud* brought also into the field a numerous host of *Jenjitsberies* long practised in the use of fiery engines, and a large train of artillery. His troops had been for several years strangers to peace and inactivity; hardships and dangers were become natural to them: their repeated victories had raised their courage; and, having always conquered, they thought themselves invincible. *Mahmud* was himself, notwithstanding the natural brutality

talities of his temper, a brave and skilful general; and his mind was more polished than his inveterate foes, the *Europeans*, were willing to allow. His ambition and warlike passion were indeed blemishes, but such blemishes as led infallibly to conquests and to fame.

To counteract these combined powers, the *Persian* monarch had his *Curds*, a well-trained and hardened cavalry. *Asia* knew no better horsemen than his *Georgians*; but their number was too small. The national forces had seldom seen an enemy, and *Ufong* could not expect from them the steadiness of veteran troops. The greatest disparity was in the weapons. On horseback, and the sabre in hand, *Ufong* might hope

to

to gain the advantage, and each *Persian* thought himself superior to two *Osman*s; but *Persia* was so destitute of infantry, that the emperor could, by no means, flatter himself of being able to resist the impenetrable phalanx of the intrepid *Jenitseries*; much less could he expect to match the fire of those proud conquerors. And his *Persians* were every way inferior both in the number and use of the artillery.

The wise *Ufong* had nothing to rely upon but his own prudence and resolution—That, and the consummate love of his faithful subjects, he doubted not would suffice him so to obstruct the marches and operations of the
*Osman*s,

Osmons, and to render them their sustenance so difficult and precarious, that they would not long be able to hold out, in a country so far distant from their capital, the many hardships he was preparing for them. He knew besides that the *Osmons*, who venture furious attacks, are easily daunted by the steady perseverance of a persisting foe.

The first campaign was carried on by the light cavalry, which the emperor sent out under the command of the fiery *Pir Hamet*. The *Caramanian* prince was soon joined by a great number of his re-animated subjects. *Ufong* had warned and even commanded him not to venture a pitched battle with the *Osmons*. *Pir Hamet*

Hamet was, for a time, successful; the whole land was up in arms against the enemy, and not a hand was found that did not grasp a weapon for the service of their lawful sovereign. He had soon collected a numerous army, and dispersed several bands of *Osman* rovers.

—The old *Achmet*, in the mean time, took an advantageous post near *Tocat*: he encamped on a gentle eminence which overlooked a wide campaign, and which he strongly mantled with his terrifick cannon: beneath his lines, vineyards, intersected by narrow lanes, extended sloping on to the plain; these avenues also he guarded by a strong body of *Jenjitsseries*: the wide *Tocat* secured his rear.

Pir Hamet was so blind, so full of youthful confidence, that he was firmly persuaded the *Osmons* could not resist him, even in that strong position. He fiercely attacked the vineyards with his cavalry. A thick hail of mortiferous lead came pouring down from the eminence, and from each destructive wall. The bravest fell; the remaining *Caramanians* fled, and suffered greatly in their retreat by the thundering execution of the ordnance. This defeat abated the untimely and too sudden courage of the unpractised subjects of *Pir Hamet*. They dispersed, and their dejected prince was compelled to forsake his camp and hereditary dominions. He retreated with the small remains of his army to *Tabris*, where, abashed by shame
and

and sad remorse, he shunned with timorous awe the presence of the emperor.

Though *Ufong* cautiously avoided danger, yet was he dauntless when it surrounded him. He invited *Pir Hamet* to court, and inspired him with new courage. "My friend has now experienced," said the emperor, "that a just cause
" may often prove an arduous one ; but
" he will, I hope, witness one day, that
" fortune can be biaſſed by patience
" and perseverance."

Ufong penetrated into *Caramania*. *Bajazid* and the old *Achmet* had triumphantly joined the sultan ; and the aspiring *Mahmud* prided himself in the hopes that the glory of the *Osmans* would suffer
no

no diminution, under his valiant son, *Morad* *, another chief, an apostate christian of the line of the *Palaeologues*, led on the *Osman*s. Youth and ambition had first seduced the *Byzantian* prince; and so far had this ambition debased his soul, that he meanly engaged in the service of the very subverter of his imperial race.

Ufong pursued his plan: he divided his army, which consisted of mere cavalry, into several bands; and the chiefs received instructions every evening, where to speed, and where to fall in with other parties. The *Persians* were seen at every place, and yet no

* See *Bizarro*.

where

where could the *Osman*s find them. They cut to pieces all that strayed at any distance from the head quarters. If supplies were led to the camp of the *Serasquier*, three *Persian* bands united, overpowered the convoy, put the *Osman*s to death, and seized on the provisions: if *Morad* drew out against them, they dispersed, and their excellent horses soon carried them out of the sight of the *Osman*s. Each *Caramanian* was a spy, the *Persians* knew every secret motion of the enemy; whilst *Morad* remained in constant apprehension and suspense.

Thus did *Usorg* daily harass the *Osman*s; and *Morad*, who foresaw that death awaited him equally either at *Byzantium*

or in the plains of *Tocat*, took the desperate resolution of engaging the emperor wherever he should find him.

Ufong was instantly apprised of the distress and rash determination of the *Serasquier*. “Now is the time to combat,” said he to *Pir Hamet*.—He assembled all his scattered bands in a plain that lay behind his headquarters. The emperor’s retreat imboldened the renegade chief; he pressed, with all possible vigour and rapidity, upon the yielding *Persians*.

No sooner were the *Osmons* arrived
within

within two farfangs * of his rear guard, but *Ufong* gave a sudden and general order to march against them without the least noise or sound of warlike instrument. As he was superior in numbers, he divided his forces into three divisions. The two wings surrounded the *Osmans* on the sides, and *Ufong* attacked the *Serasquier* in the front. He commanded his troops to form their ranks out of the reach of the enemies fire-arms, and boldly to assail them on every side, with reins relaxed and sabres drawn. The *Osmans* saw death before them, and destruction surrounding them on every hand. 'Tis

* Long hours marches.

*fate**, cried they desponding, and relinquished every effort. They were routed in an instant: many thousands were cut to pieces; and the remainder, very few excepted, were taken prisoners. Death seemed less awful to the vanquished *Morad* than the angry aspect of his master; he sought, and found it in the field of battle ‡. And this victory had been obtained with so little bloodshed on the *Persian* side, that *Usong* could joyfully boast it did not cost his subjects one single tear.

* This is the constant practice of the *Turks* in evils against which they know no remedy.

‡ *Bizarro* mentions this victory.

After the greatest part of *Caramania* had thrown itself into the victor's arms, and had expelled the *Osman* garrisons out of the chief cities, *Ufong* entered *Tabris* in triumph. He wisely considered that a shew of magnificence, though far beneath his relish, might yet on this occasion contribute to elevate the spirits of his valiant *Persians*. He led the prisoners, in their warlike accoutrements, on the great place of *Tabris*: they marched in military order and with their fire-arms, between two files of *Persian* troopers whose polished armour glistened in the sun. The artillery, the ensigns, the horses tails, the commanders staves, and all the trophies of martial pomp, followed the captives. In the middle of the

place sat *Usong* on an elevated sofa : the *Persian* banner streamed over his dey— The commanders, the *Mongolian* princes, the grandees of *Persia*, clad in the richest attire, surrounded the throne at awful distance : the young *Ismael*, in military array, stood near his great progenitor. The captives laid down their arms in the emperor's presence, and were thence led away to be distributed in all the provinces, there to witness to every *Persian* the glory of that victorious day. Next came before the throne those distinguished warriors, whose exploits the emperor had himself observed, or of whose uncommon share in the victory he had other unquestionable evidence : they were honoured with magnificent presents ; high bred horses, decked with
the

the richest trappings; sabres that gleamed with a profusion of costly gems; streamers, by which the fame of their heroic deeds might be perpetuated down to the latest posterity; helmets with bright towering plumes; steel armour; laurel wreaths curiously braided, and interspersed with precious stones.

The wide-extended *Tabris* rang with triumphant shouts that lasted several hours—"Long live the second *Cyrus*,
"the sovereign of the world, the shadow of the deity!"

Fame spread the glory of *Ufong* to the remotest regions. The distant *Mongolians*, divided from *Persia* by so many towering mountains and immeasurable

desarts, rejoiced exceedingly at the success of a son of *Zengis*. *Hindostan* sent him an embassy : and, in the west, the hopes were now indulged, that the hero had been found, who would effectually curb the unlimited ambition of the *Osmons*.

The next campaign was not so bloody, and yet victorious. All *Caramania* submitted to the emperor, and several thousands of *Osmons* were slain in small skirmishes : but their general had the strictest orders not to risk a battle *, and took such advantageous posts

* According to *Bizarro's* account, *Mahmud* himself commanded in this campaign : but it is scarce credible that the fiery sultan would have thus given way to his enemy.

in the mountains which that country abounds in, that *Ufong* found it impracticable to attack the enemy with an army wholly destitute of infantry.

The baleful thunder-storm that had been brooding and gradually extending in the west, reached now the *Persian* frontiers. *Mahmud*, panting after vengeance, led his mighty host himself into *Caramania*, and an immense train of artillery followed his army. The flower of the *Osmans*, the *Jenjitsberies*, the *European* troops, advanced in dreadful multitudes. The *Crimean* and *Nogayan Tartars* hovered about the sides, and covered the flanks of their prodigious camp. All that was valorous among the *Turks*, all the experienced
generals

generals of *Morad*, came forth from their retreats, and crouded under the banners of their warlike sultan.

Ufong took the field with all the collected forces of the *Persian* empire; a small detachment excepted, which he left at *Tabris*, to cover that city and his imperial family. What mostly disconcerted the emperor's measures, was the tardiness of the *Venetian* supplies. The republic had not indeed neglected to send a fleet on the coasts of *Cilicia*, where it had already made frequent descents, and seized on several maritime towns; and whose commander had strict orders to follow, in every respect, the directions of the emperor: a messenger had brought considerable presents of gold and silver vases, whose
work-

workmanship exceeded the value of the metal *: one hundred gunners accompanied the train of artillery under their captain *Thomas de Imola*; they escorted also great stores of ammunition and implements, for the use of the heavy pieces that were intended for the sieges of strong towns and citadels: many gunsmiths, and other artists *Persia* then stood in need of, came likewise with them.—But the *Venetian* chief had been too dilatory; and this important aid did not arrive till after the bloody battle, on which depended the fate of *Asia*.

Ufeng marched forward to meet the furious *Mahmud*. The exasperated ful-

* History says that they were wrought at *Paris*.
tan

tan spread fire and devastation far around him. Before his army, said the *Osmans* themselves, the country was a smiling paradise; behind him, a burning waste. He advanced till within ten days march of *Tabris*, and threw the alarm into that great and flourishing city, which *Ufong* had provided with all the necessaries for the support of a numerous army.

Fain would the prudent *Ufong* have declined a battle; his intention was invariably to annoy the *Osmans* by slight attacks and by intercepting their convoys.—But the greatest men are the most flexible and modest. *Ufong* listened to the counsels of the spirited *Haider*; of *Pir Hamet*, the dauntless
Nowians

Nowians, and the grandees of *Persia*. They jointly remonstrated to the emperor, that the loss of *Tabris* would be the certain ruin of the empire; that many thousands of faithful subjects would be cruelly massacred, and that the means would thus be lost of carrying on a successful war. The zealous adherents to the race of *Ali* shuddered at the very thought of seeing the sacred tombs of *Ardevil* profaned by impious *Sonnites*. The cavalry, they added, could never secure the passes, nor maintain any position where the *Jenitsheries* would not penetrate. They reminded the emperor of his many victories; and intreated him not to doubt the valour of his *Persians*, who would all shed the last drop of their
loyal

loyal blood before they would suffer *Ufeng's* martial honour to be tarnished.

The emperor complied and marched against the foe. He met them in the district of *Arzendgan*, in a large plain not far from the *Euphrates*, where his cavalry had room to spread itself.

Makmud stood in the center of a square phalanx of fifty thousand *Jen-jitsheries*, surrounded by the artillery which darted death around on many thousands. They stood in fifty ranks; an impenetrable, tremendous, fiery column. On the wings were posted the *Spabis* and *Tartars*, who were led on by their own *Chan*.

Ufeng

Ujong faced the *Jenjitsberies* with his *Curds*, and with the choicest *Persians*; the remaining cavalry was stationed on the flanks. He repeated the orders he had given in the victorious battle against the pathaw *Morad*. He advanced slowly, till he came within the destructive reach of the enemy's fire. He lifted up his eyes to heaven, and, as it seemed, implored its aid. He ordered the *Persian* banner never to quit his side—*Persia's Weal*, was the word he gave; and rushed through the sulphureous clouds and shower of mortal lead, among the foes.

The weak cavalry of the *Turks* and *Tartars* instantly gave way. The victorious *Persians*, observant of their orders,

ders, left a sufficient body in battle array to prevent the scattered wings from recovering themselves, and fell with the keenest ardour on the flanks of the *Osmons*.

The *Persians*, sabre in hand, routed some ranks of the *Jenjitsberies*; but these experienced soldiers turned their fire-arms on every side, and every moment fell the bravest of the assailants. *Ufong* descried the sultan in the thickest ranks, superbly mounted, clad in a sable-bordered mantle, and distinguished by the three hern-plumes that proudly nodded on his turban: seven horses tails, richly trickt with golden tassels, streamed on his side aloft—The emperor saw no prospect of victory, but the sultan's death: he pressed upon him with

with the united vigour of courage and a degree of fierce despair. But the mortiferous blasts strewed havock all around him. The prime of the *Persian* army fell: the greatest part of the *Nowians*, and *Pir Hamet* himself, on whose account this slaughter was committed, were slain near the emperor's side. *Dsbuneid*, the emperor's friend, lost his life in fighting for him *. An hostile bullet

* This *Dsbuneid*, according to the western historians, was son to *Ufong*. *Marco Guazzo* ascribes the command, in this battle, to the same *Dsbuneid*, whom he calls *Dsbenial*; and attributes the defeat to his rash ardour: he says, that *Ufong* had ordered him not to engage; but that the young prince, having overcome two

let flew at length against the breast of the noble *Haider*, and rent his generous heart close to the emperor's horse. *Ufong* saw the fall, and fought his own extinction.

He was on the brink of it — *Scherin* bore the imperial banner: the loyal subject seized the emperor's bridle, and turned his horse. “ Pardon thy
“ first servant,” cried he: “ but *Persia*

pashaws, had slighted his father's orders; and having been surrounded by *Mahmud*, was slain himself, and his whole army routed. But *Bizarro's* account is far more credible; for it is highly improbable that the prudent *Ufong* should, on so important an occasion, have entrusted the command of the *Persian* army into the hands of so young and unexperienced a leader.

“ may

“ may recover after a defeat ; never
 “ after *Ufong*’s death.” Without wait-
 ing the emperor’s leave, he ordered the
 two great drums to beat the signal of
 retreat, which proved as dangerous as
 the attack. Many heroes perished still
 by the unrelenting fire of the *Turkish* ar-
 tillery : yet the *Persian* sabre cleared
 itself a way through the close files of
 the *Jemitsheries* ; and the emperor was
 rescued.

Scherin threw himself at his feet, and
 confessed his guilt in having presumed
 to order a retreat, and dared in a man-
 ner to do violence to the emperor.
 But the thankful *Ufong* overlooked
 mere formal rules : he penetrated into
 the secret views of the zealous servant :

he cordially embraced him; and thanked him for having calmly possessed himself, when *Haider's* death had totally overcome the emperor's fortitude.

The sultan ventured not to pursue the enemy : his infantry was naked and exposed ; and if he once broke his compacted lines, his ruin would have been inevitable. He saw part of the *Persian* army standing on each side of him in regular files. He repaired his shattered ranks, ordered a general discharge as a signal of victory, and remained on the field of battle in full array. The *Osmans* suffered much greater slaughter than the *Persians**; but the glory of
having

* 40,000 *Turks* to 8,000 *Persians*. *Bizarra*.

having driven the great *Ufong* from the field of battle, appeared to *Mahmud* a sufficient title to immortal fame.

The *Persians* retired, according to the emperor's premeditated plan, to a spot where they found a plentiful supply of water and provisions. 'Twas with regret he left so many friends, so many firm supporters of his empire, unburied on the fatal plain — "And who will comfort my *Nushirwani*?" said he, disconsolate. He knew not yet the real greatness of her manly soul.

He distributed his troops on the two wings of the *Osman* army. The foremost had orders to cut off all

L 3 provisions;

provisions; and to attack, with circumsppection, the single parties which necessity would compel the enemy to send out for forage: for the field of battle was a mere dry and blasted heath*.

In three days the messenger dispatched by *Scherin* arrived at *Tabris*. The large city heaved, as the sea in a raging storm, both from apprehension of the future and terror of the past. *Nushirwani* heard, without a tear, all that the news contained of bitter and horrific. "This is no time for weeping," said she; and resorted to the great place, mounted on an armed elephant. She caused the chiefs of the troops laying in *Tabris*,

* In *Bizarro's* relation it is called *Goosefields*.

to be assembled by the sound of the great drums ; and convened the principal inhabitants of that populous city. " The safety of *Persia*," said an herald in her name, " depends upon the use " of the present moment. In an hour, " the troops must march out to join " the emperor ; to-morrow else his " foes may crush him — Whosoever " among the inhabitants of *Tabris* " loves his country and his children " will follow me : without new forces, " which the emperor may oppose to " the progress of the enemy, *Tabris* " will, in a few days, become a burning pile of ruins, under which her " wretched citizens will be unmercifully " mangled and consumed to ashes."

Tabris took up arms.—Ten thousand warlike men, the prime of its many thousands, joined the regular forces, and marched immediately towards *Arzendgan*. All the grey-headed warriors who had fought for *Persia's* liberty, snatched up a lance, and stood before the front of the new soldiery. Speedy couriers flew in quest of the emperor, and apprized him of the approaching reinforcement. Other messengers hastened, upon the fleetest couriers, to levy the *Persian* land militia. *Nushirwani* advanced, in the midst of her warriors, to her father's relief — “ And did not *Ajeshab*, mounted on “ a camel,” said she, “ animate her
“ com-

“ combatants in a cause less honourable
“ than this *.”

She provided for the safety of the dejected empress; and had her conducted, half-fainting, to the castle of *Karpurt* †, which by its strong situation was effectually secured against any sudden attack of the enemy.

Mehmud moved on slowly and with doubtful hesitation. His cavalry was utterly destroyed: and one half of his *Jenjitsberies* had fallen under the sabres of the desperate *Persians*. He also dreaded being deprived of water and provisions;

* In the battle of the *Camel*, in which the *Syrians* were worsted by *Ali*.

† *Bizarro*.

and

and saw the *Persian* army watching all his motions at some distance.

In a few days the new army joined the emperor, and every hour fresh reinforcements arrived, being summoned by the messengers of the resolute *Nushirwani*.—All *Persia* stood in arms: one will prevailed in the generous people. To save their monarch and the honour of their country was their only wish, which silenced even the love of life.

Nushirwani requested instant admission to her illustrious father. “All is safe if *Uson* lives,” said she, and flew into his arms. The emperor saw nothing in her countenance that seemed effemi-

effeminate, no trace of fear or anxious dismay was visible; nothing but magnanimity and the desire of delivering her country beamed from her radiant eyes. *Ufong* tenderly embraced her, “ With such a daughter,” said he sadly smiling, “ who can wish for sons?”

Makmud had no longer any hopes of winning *Tabris*: he saw the danger of being surrounded; and dreaded the execution of the *Persian* sabres, which his wearied troops, he feared, would scarce be able longer to repel. He slowly withdrew; and not one house in *Persia* was fired by the torches of the conquering host. But *Makmud* was cruel: he caused the wounded and captives to be butchered: he scorn-
ed

ed to exert a common vengeance, but ordered one hundred of those unhappy victims to be daily massacred*. He retired into *Caramania*, where he finally destroyed all that had hitherto escaped his fury; and thence led his army against the feeble *Trebizond*.

David was incapable of opposing the conqueror: he surrendered himself and his dominions to *Mahmud*, who promised to spare his life. But this blood-thirsty sultan was a stranger to real honour, and valued not the dignity of his word: he barbarously extirpated the whole *Comnenian* race.

* *Bizarro*.

U S O N G.

BOOK THE FOURTH.

THE *Persian* army encamped
in the meads round *Tabris*.
Ufong cautiously abstained
from pursuing a victorious enemy, that
had not lost the superiority by which
the *Persians* had been conquered. The
emperor had always foreseen the impossi-
bility of opposing an unshaken cohort
of *Jenjitsheries* without a strong body
of steady infantry; and sad experience
had now verified the prognostic of his
wisdom.

wisdom. The tardy aid from *Venice* arrived at length; but did not supply the indispensable want of men thoroughly practised in the use of fire-arms.

An awful silence prevailed in all the assemblies, and even in the *Imperial* palace. No one in the former dared to enquire after the fate of the warriors, dreading either some dismal news for himself, or to revive the grief of others. All *Persia* mourned; and not one distinguished family had escaped the loss of a worthy kinsman, or of an hopeful offspring.

“ Now flow my tears,” cried *Nushirwani*; and, retiring to the most solitary

tary recess of her apartment, secretly indulged her heart-felt sorrow.—At an age when she might have hoped long to enjoy the comforts of an happy union, she saw herself bereaved of a loving consort, whom she cherished with all the warm affection that harboured in her bosom. She daily saw the emperor's cheerfulness decreasing; never, since the incomparable *Liosua's* death, had he appeared composed and joyful. Her tender love centered now all in the young *Ismael*; whom, with the assistance of the wisest and most virtuous *Persians*, she undertook herself to educate.

Early did she instruct his prattling infancy. She inspired him with the first

principles of wisdom, by means of the ingenious fables that had been left by *Lokman* and by *Saady*, or by other emblems she devised herself. As his years increased, the fables were succeeded by historical facts, in which he always saw virtue exalted by honours and rewards, and vice discountenanced by shame and condign punishment.

The judicious princess made good use of the painters art. She knew that figured representations are much more striking, and make far deeper impressions, than mere abstracted ideas. She found means to clothe most of the moral doctrines in lively images, which she explained by simple narratives. The future hero took such a relish for this

this method of instruction, that he could never be satiated.—A sultan was here depicted entering a solitary room, in which nothing was seen but a shepherd's habit and a crook: the sultan looked round with indignation on his attending courtiers. The princess explained the figure by the well-known fact of the *Persian* prime minister from *Kerman*. She left the prince to make his own deductions, and guided his applications. “Behold, my *Ismael*,” said she, “how a prince may be misled by the calumny of envious sycophants; and how cautiously he must guard against admitting as a truth, what stands yet in need of demonstration.—That honest servant could never be prevailed upon to expose himself a second time to the

VOL. II. M “fickle-

“ fickleness of his deluded master ; and
 “ the king lost the best pillar of his
 “ realm. *Mahommed* was a faithful
 “ minister, and yet his virtues could
 “ not screen him from the cankering
 “ tooth of envy. The king should
 “ have reflected, that the suspicion of a
 “ treasure being secreted in the private
 “ room, was founded on a mere report.
 “ Had he fulfilled the duties of a good
 “ sovereign, he would have soon per-
 “ ceived in *Mahommed*’s accounts, whe-
 “ ther in fact the *Wafir* did betray his
 “ important trust.”

On another leaf, *Byzantium* in its
 full splendour was figured in distant
 view. *Timur*, whose image was distin-
 guishable and familiar to the young
 prince, seemed to avert his eyes from
 the

the grand prospect. ‘ What said *Timur*, the terror of the world? — The *Grecian* emperor had invited him to visit his court; for *Timur* had delivered him from *Bajazid* the ancestor of *Mahmud*. But *Timur* answered, “ The city is too magnificent; I may be tempted to covet its possession.” He marched away; and did not even retain one single village, though his assistance had cost the lives of many thousands of his bravest *Tartars*.’

In this manner was the soul of *Ishmael* filled with the brightest notions of virtue, which gradually became his nature. By figures also was he taught to know the many productions of nature; the several states into which mankind had

shared the globe; the natural produce of every land, and the order of the heavenly motions. The fond mother often, as a penalty, refused to explain a figure; and to be taught was his reward.

Other approved masters practised him in all the bodily exercises that are ornamental to a prince: but special care was taken, that no one of profligate morals should ever intrude himself among them; and that no word should be uttered in his presence, which might leave a stain upon the spotless soul of the illustrious youth.

As he grew in years, he was made acquainted with the people he was one day

day to govern; with every district of the empire, each town of note, and their respective productions of art and nature. *Nushirwani*, on the perusal of every passage, quoted some shining anecdote.—“ Here was the fair *Panthea* “ taken, and returned unviolated to her “ lord. Her lord soon after shed his “ grateful blood for the chaste and generous *Cyrus*. Such is the privilege “ of virtue,” continued *Nushirwani*: “ it procures us the love of nations; “ and is the only means to obtain the “ sovereign blessing of true and constant friendship.”

He was now ripe to hear of God. *Nushirwani* excited in him those unlimited ideas, which however suggest but a

small part of the divine immensity. His mind was filled with ardent love for the great Benefactor of mankind. He learnt to pronounce with veneration, the name of the great Judge, before whom emperors are but men — She laboured incessantly to counteract the subtle venom of flattery ; and to persuade the heir of *Persia*, that the throne imparts no other grandeur, but the glorious means of procuring the welfare of innumerable multitudes. “ God,” said she, “ expects
 “ more from the distinguished mortal
 “ whom he has invested with part of
 “ his omnipotence : and woe to him
 “ who betrays the sacred trust, for
 “ which he will be eternally respon-
 “ sible.”

She

She related to him the excellence that distinguished the first founders of the imperial lines of *Cyrus*, of *Ardesbir* *, of *Wuwang*, and of *Yao*. From their heroic virtues, from their indefatigable zeal for the welfare of their people, did they derive their greatness. In like manner, did she enumerate the names of the abandoned monarchs, under whom the greatest empires had fallen to ruin; of *Sardanapalus*, of *Balsazar*, *Tshew*, and the last *Caliphs* of the *Abassides*. “Luxury,” said she, “depraves the heart, and degrades man to the rank of savage brutes. The prince, who yields to luxury, must soon forfeit the confidence of his people, and gradually expose himself to the con-

* *Artaxerxes*, the first of the *Sassanides*.

“ tempt of those very flatterers who go-
 “ vern him. The tottering throne, flat-
 “ tered by the father’s vices, is at length
 “ finally demolished under the no less
 “ voluptuous son.

“ See here thy great progenitor,”
 said *Nushirwani* with glowing raptures:
 “ behold him a petty *Mongolian* prince,
 “ a captive, a slave; and see him
 “ mounting the *Persian* throne, solely
 “ through virtuous deeds—To these
 “ virtuous deeds is my *Ismael* beholden
 “ for his just title to a throne. Through
 “ virtue has *Ufong* prospered, and his
 “ offspring enjoys the reward of his
 “ great merits. And what does this
 “ throne cost him? what, but the
 “ willing performance of his duty;
 “ in

“ in which he found far greater blifs,
 “ than the wretched *Caliphs* in their
 “ amorous dalliance; under the iron
 “ rod of their viziers; under the threat-
 “ ning fabres of their own guards; un-
 “ der the daily apprehension of being,
 “ before the next riling fun, dragged
 “ from the throne into some gloomy
 “ grated dungeon. *Ufong* is better
 “ guarded by the love of his subjects,
 “ than by an hoft of flaming fwords:
 “ his heart gives him the undoubted
 “ verdict of his own interior greatnefs:
 “ there, no fenfation ever arifes which
 “ it fhould wifh to fecrete from the
 “ eye of virtue. His luftre fpreads
 “ light and genial warmth over the
 “ whole univerfe. The world re-echoes
 “ the

“ the testimony of his conscience.
 “ *Ufong* hears the fame of his great
 “ excellence proclaimed by the tongues
 “ of a hundred nations.”

The heart of the noble youth was
 fired with emulation. “ Shall I,” such
 were its dictates, “ shall the grandson
 “ of *Ufong* not be virtuous, not de-
 “ serve the applause of mankind, not
 “ please the fovereign Lord of Heaven?
 “ shall I be a worthless mortal ; rejected
 “ of God, the world, and of poste-
 “ rity?”

The war with the *Osmons*, though not
 terminated by a peace, was not however
 carried on with any vigour or animosity.

Makmud

Mahmud continued in the possession of his new acquisitions, without molesting *Persia*: he had so ravaged the country between him and *Ufong*, that neither could have marched an army through the dreadful scene of desolation, without exposing it to certain ruin. After *Pir Hamet's* death, *Ufong* had no further claim to the possession of *Caramania*: he had experienced the hardships and calamities of a war; and the image of his slaughtered friends, who had fallen at *Arzendgan*, continually hovered before his eyes. One campaign however he carried on against some *Georgian* princes, who had roused the lion they now fancied dead: but *Ufong* soon convinced them, that *Persia's*
power

power had been no ways reduced; and exacted from the princes *Pancrass* and *Gorgora* an annual tribute in gold, as a badge of their dependence*.

The splendor of the court at *Tabris* was much enhanced by the arrival of a numerous embassy from the mighty king of the *Patans*. The deputies brought considerable presents consisting of elephants and other curious animals, which *Ufong* received with pleasure. The *Patan* had no other view in sending this embassy, than to form a nearer connexion with a monarch, of whom he had heard such great and glorious things.

* See *Bizarro*.

A deputation arrived also from several tribes of the *Mongolian Tartars*. They signified the death of *Timurtesh*, and jointly tendered the sovereignty of their hordes to his exalted son; the fame of whose noble deeds had penetrated to the furthest desert of the eastern *Tartary*.

Ufong providently declared his mind to the subjects of his father. “Your
 “happiness,” said he, “my noble brethren! requires a sovereign who
 “may dwell constantly among you:
 “fate has called me away, and placed
 “me on the throne of *Persia*. Your
 “confidence gratefully affects me, and
 “I will endeavour to deserve it. *Tarkemissh*, of the race of *Zengis*, has
 “been the faithful companion of
 “my

“ my dangers. He has escaped the
 “ slaughter of the many *Nowian* he-
 “ roes who fell at *Arzendgan*. Accept
 “ him for your *Chan* : he has great
 “ virtues, which he will solely dedi-
 “ cate to your advantage ; whilst
 “ *Ufong*’s counsels could only be im-
 “ parted by substitutes.” *Tarkemish* was
 placed on a shield, which the noblest
Mongolians raised on their heads ; and
 he departed with them. He swore
 perpetual gratitude to the magnani-
 mous *Ufong* ; who recollected the con-
 dition *Liewang* had laid him under ne-
 ver to become a neighbour of the
Chinese empire.

The ambassadors continued some
 time at *Tabris*. *Ufong* invited them to
 the

the familiar suppers, to which he alternately admitted his intimates, and such men of merit as he was desirous to distinguish. To be the emperor's friend was the prize of eminent qualities, and the ultimate scope of virtuous emulation. *Ufong*, in this select society, was always free and open; and seemed ever pleased when his guests afforded him opportunities to expatiate on the most important topics of government.

The *Patan* began. 'Lord of ages! *' said he, 'when I arrived at the gate of thy palace, I enquired for the

* Thus were *Zengis* and *Timur* flayed by the *Orientals*.

' *Wafir*,

‘ *We* *sir*, to whom I had letters to de-
 ‘ liver, and presents which were propor-
 ‘ tionate to the high dignity of a *Per-*
 ‘ *sian Polstern**. “ We know no Wa-
 ‘ “ *sir*,” was the answer. “ Perhaps,
 ‘ thought I, *Persia* has her *Calaos*, her
 ‘ commissioners of each separate branch
 ‘ of government. I asked for the head
 ‘ of the military department : I could
 ‘ hear of none ; and was in like man-
 ‘ ner disappointed in my enquiries
 ‘ concerning the other departments of
 ‘ law, finances, and of domestic ad-
 ‘ ministration.’

“ God has endowed the wise *Ufong*

* The Title of the prime minister.

with

“ with the transcendant mind of the
 “ formidable *Zengis*. As the sun, he
 “ overlooks at once his whole ex-
 “ tensive empire: but can *Ufong*,
 “ like the sun, be ever indefatigable?
 “ That radiant luminary shines this
 “ day as bright over the head of *Ufong*,
 “ as it shone formerly over the mighty
 “ *Oguz*; but may a mortal flatter
 “ himself to sustain an immense bur-
 “ den, and never to be wearied?
 “ The Being that has distinguished
 “ *Ufong* from the rest of mankind
 “ by so many uncommon qualities,
 “ has not however exempted him from
 “ the fate of mortals, although he holds
 “ the first rank among them. May
 “ he protract thy days, as the days of

“ the first emperor, the days of *Caju-*
 “ *marā** ! but *Ufong* must advance in
 “ years, he must have a successor : will
 “ the shoulders of the venerable grey-
 “ headed monarch still be equal to the
 “ heavy load that could not bear down
 “ the younger *Ufong* ? Will thy succeſ-
 “ ſors apply the ſame gigantic vigour to
 “ the weight of government, with
 “ which *Ufong* upholds the *Persian*
 “ welfare ? — Pardon the ſervant of
 “ thy friend, wiſeſt of monarchs ! who
 “ preſumes to offer a doubt, which
 “ proceeds merely from his ſincere
 “ regard for thy felicity. Could not
 “ *Ufong*, as well as all other ſovereigns,
 “ call in the aſſiſtance of faithful ſer-

* The firſt emperor in the fabulous hiſtory of
Persia: he is ſaid to have reigned ſeveral centuries.

“ wants?

“ wants ? he who is endowed with pe-
 “ netration to make the best choice, and
 “ with assiduous attention to keep each
 “ officer to his respective duty.”

Ufong answered with the affability
 which, after the death of his dear *Liosua*,
 supplied the want of his cheerful smile,
 “ I esteem it a great happiness to have
 “ the affection of wise and honest
 “ friends. Let the *Chan* attend to my,
 “ reply.

“ Limited as my abilities are, yet
 “ never shall I appoint a *Wafir Azem*.
 “ I am ambitious of possessing the
 “ hearts of my people ; I wish to see
 “ them happy. Grant the *Wafir* to be
 “ a worthy minister : the thanks of

“ the people will then center in him,
 “ since from him all benefits derive.
 “ ’Tis the *Wafir* who protects the laws,
 “ maintains domestic peace, and order :
 “ his are the victories ; his the receiving
 “ of petitions, the redressing of injuries ;
 “ his the distribution of justice. Such
 “ a *Wafir* would be an obstructive
 “ cloud between me and my people :
 “ in him would the *Persians* behold
 “ the lustre ; whilst I should remain
 “ unseen, unnoted.—My desire is to
 “ do good ; why should I then sur-
 “ render the means to others ?

“ Is the *Wafir* liable to great failings ?
 “ is he unqualified or covetous ? doth
 “ his ambition prompt him to a desire
 “ of conquests ? is he ruled by favourites ?
 “ does

“ does he obscure the too-glaring merits
 “ of other servants of the state? has
 “ the people just cause to complain
 “ of extortion or other malversations?
 “ then does the blame fall heavy upon
 “ *Usong* ; upon the unwise *Usong*, who
 “ has made an improper choice; upon
 “ the slothful *Usong*, who wields the
 “ scepter, but finds himself unequal
 “ to the duties of his station. *Usong*
 “ is miserable, because he has lost the
 “ affection of his people : but *Usong*
 “ is far more wretched, because his
 “ people is unhappy. — What though
 “ he awakes, and hurls destruction on
 “ the cause of the public murmurs?
 “ much good has in the mean while
 “ been neglected, which, without the
 “ unworthy minister, might have been

“ effected : much harm is done, which
 “ a less potent servant could not have
 “ perpetrated ; and which could never
 “ have happened, had *Ufong* held the
 “ reins of government. And where
 “ is the security that the next *Wafir*
 “ will be free from all blemish ?

“ Why need a prince be avaricious?
 “ he sinks under the weight of too
 “ great affluence. Why should he
 “ envy the merits of good servants?
 “ he cannot be expelled by them : he
 “ has nothing to fear from them—
 “ Each merit in the empire contributes
 “ to the monarch’s glory, as it pro-
 “ motes the welfare of the nation.
 “ No diligent labourer digs a well that
 “ does not enrich me ; no plough
 “ comes forth into the field, but it

“ can does

“ conduces to my interest ; no branch
 “ of trade is extended, but it spreads
 “ the lustre of my throne ; and
 “ *Usong* smarts for every error his ser-
 “ vants may commit. His own hap-
 “ piness therefore requires, that he
 “ love and encourage all good subjects,
 “ that he drive the wicked from his
 “ presence and from every important
 “ trust, that he procure the increase of
 “ every public advantage. His peace
 “ of mind, and the love of the *Persians*
 “ are his dearest treasures. And who
 “ can be more anxious for *Usong*’s hap-
 “ piness, than *Usong* is himself ?

“ I will not quote the many histories
 “ in which I find the consequences of the
 “ vices or virtues of sovereigns plainly

“ deduced from their real sources. The
 “ western nations patiently tolerate even
 “ the most wicked princes ; they submit
 “ to them, as to the ministers of hea-
 “ ven’s just vengeance on a guilty
 “ land, as to a baneful storm of hail or
 “ lightning : and yet, even in the west
 “ have I observed, that the virtues or
 “ the vices of great officers have, more
 “ than once, overturned the thrones of
 “ princes. Three potent *Wafirs* among
 “ the *Franks* wrenched the scepter out
 “ of the hands of their lawful masters,
 “ the sons of mighty heroes ; and re-
 “ duced them to the condition of ton-
 “ fured *Dervishes* *. Other kingdoms
 “ have been stript of all their treasures

* *Charles Martel* and the two *Pipins*.

“ by wicked ministers; who have steered
 “ the ship, whose helm had been com-
 “ mitted to their guidance, straight on
 “ the fatal rock.

“ As long as *Ufong* has strength to
 “ labour for his people, so long will
 “ that labour be his supreme delight.
 “ In this is virtue preferable to luxury :
 “ though by habit they are both con-
 “ verted into nature ; yet virtue exalts
 “ the man, and luxury degrades him :
 “ in the former, the bliss increases
 “ with the habit ; whilst the latter
 “ daily palls upon the sense, and at
 “ length surfeits. *Ufong* in this is no
 “ object of compassion ; he freely enjoys
 “ what can best satisfy him, the con-
 “ templation of his people’s happi-
 “ ness. What *Circassian* beauty can
 “ convey

“ convey the raptures I experience,
 “ when I behold a town rising out of an
 “ heap of ruins; or a new village, whose
 “ well-clad inhabitants cheerfully drive
 “ the plough with lusty oxen, and in
 “ the evening gather together under
 “ the shade of a spreading *Chinar*, re-
 “ joicing in the satisfaction of their chil-
 “ dren, and in the plenteous fertility of
 “ their thriving lands ?

“ I cannot know my ensuing suc-
 “ cessors, nor does my duty extend so
 “ far; their faults are on their own
 “ heads — But of this is *Ufong* fully
 “ persuaded, that no nation can be
 “ happy whose sovereign does not la-
 “ bour himself, does not himself pro-
 “ vide for the public welfare. All I
 “ can

“ can do is, so to form my next succeed-
 “ ing heir, that I may hope he will prove
 “ one day an emperor, and not the mere
 “ visor of an emperor through which
 “ another speaks and rules—The good
 “ education of an apparent successor
 “ is the only means to establish and
 “ maintain a sovereign race upon the
 “ throne, and to perpetuate the welfare
 “ of an empire.”

Ufong spoke with a fervour that penetrated every heart, and excited a permanent veneration in the breasts of the enlightened strangers.—The *Venetian* ambassador however, proposed his doubts. He was a son of freedom, and abhorred all severe governments and despotic sway. He had never under-
stood

stood how equity could be maintained, where the will of one man was the sole law—" Pardon," said he, " thou noble friend of virtue! if a native of distant climes surveys the eastern constitutions with strange surprize. Grant that I may freely lay down the scruples, which prejudice may have first engendered, but which I have long fostered in my bosom against the government of a single sovereign. If ever unlimited power can meet with a victorious advocate, it must be *Usong*, who so manifestly adapts that power to the good of his subjects and the whole human race.

" But how many *Usongs* shall we meet with in history among the despotic sovereigns of the east? A monarchical

“ narchical government, to me, ap-
 “ pears a legal tyranny, which will in-
 “ fallibly exert its cruel influence, un-
 “ less a wonder of the world is seated
 “ on the throne. I have learnt the
 “ histories of *Harun Alrashid*, of *Timur*,
 “ and several other *Asiatic* heroes : they
 “ were great monarchs, brave, magna-
 “ nimous, and often equitable ; they
 “ countenanced knowledge, and took
 “ pleasure in the virtues and eminent
 “ talents of their subjects. But these
 “ good qualities do not complete the
 “ duties of a sovereign, they do not
 “ insure the lives and happiness of the
 “ people. How cruelly did *Harun*
 “ sacrifice the worthy *Giafar*, and the
 “ noblest race of *Arabs*, the *Barnekides*,
 “ to his base ungenerous envy ? Could
 “ this

“ this injustice have been practised, if
 “ a council, merely admitting that the
 “ rights of nature are preferable to a ca-
 “ pricious prohibition, had pronounced
 “ over the life of *Giafar* *? How many
 “ nations has not *Timur* wholly extirpat-
 “ ed? How often has he not promised
 “ mercy, and yet left to the sword its
 “ keen destructive edge? How many
 “ wars has not the mere ambition of
 “ lawless princes kindled? Have not
 “ the *Osmons* plundered half *Asia*, and
 “ filled great part of *Europe* with reek-
 “ ing traces of desolation, merely because
 “ their sultan hankered after the title

* *Harun* had given him his favourite sister
Abassai in marriage, but commanded him to
 abstain from the matrimonial rights.

“ of

“ of a *Gazi* *, and the pernicious privilege of a *Dshiami* †?

“ In free governments all matters are
 “ decided by a number : it is scarce possible that an unjust decree should be
 “ passed by many of various sentiments,
 “ by many equally zealous, among
 “ whom not one, or some, should find
 “ their own advantage. A secret pride,
 “ which harbours also in virtuous
 “ hearts, arms the eloquence of those
 “ who are not inclined to favour the

* *Conqueror*. The victorious sultans usually add it to their title.

* A particular *Mosque*, which only those sultans are allowed to build, who have extended the limits of the empire.

“ advo-

“ advocate of a partial cause ; who will
 “ hardly be able to stand both the
 “ hatred of his antagonist, and the
 “ prevalence of truth which is the re-
 “ sultless weapon of the unprejudiced.

“ But with despotic monarchs, a
 “ sudden gust of anger is an irrevocable
 “ doom ; a raging fit of passion demo-
 “ lishes a stately town ; the wrath for
 “ an unguarded word is the signal of
 “ war and desolation—The bolt follows
 “ hard upon the flash ; and repentance
 “ comes after the disaster.

“ I see that *Usong* rules uncontroll-
 “ ed according to the *Persian* custom,
 “ and that he has also an additional
 “ sway over the hearts of his people.

“ But how has his virtue so prevailed,
 “ that under a power which is restrained
 “ by no laws, no one suffers, no one
 “ complains, and so many thousand
 “ tongues unite in proclaiming his praise
 “ and their exulting gratitude ?

“ A government that consists of many
 “ wise members cannot be subverted
 “ on a sudden. The loss of one
 “ worthy associate may be endured,
 “ when so many others still remain.
 “ *Zeno* died, and *Venice* flourished still.
 “ In a monarchy, the fate of the empire,
 “ depends upon the breath of a single
 “ mortal : scarce had the world ad-
 “ mired a *Timur*, but worthless sons
 “ succeeded ; inept, voluptuous, sloth-
 “ ful princes. An election, which in
 Vol. II. O “ free

“ free states excludes the mean, the
 “ despicable, the unqualified, is of no
 “ effect against a birth-right. A
 “ mighty people must submit to a
 “ fierce tyger, a *Sardan-pul*, and must
 “ share in his perdition. Thus va-
 “ nished the *Timurides*, the offspring of
 “ heaven’s scourge over the astonished
 “ universe.”

Ufong replied : “ I will not object
 “ to the western sages the glaring in-
 “ justices that have, not very seldom,
 “ been committed by the governments
 “ of free states : I will not insist that at
 “ *Rome*, ambition has as often egged on
 “ the senate to iniquitous wars, as a de-
 “ sire of aggrandizement has ever done
 “ by *Timur* or the *Osman*s : I do also
 “ admit

“ admit that it is dangerous to entrust
 “ one man with an unlimited power ;
 “ with God alone is omnipotence in
 “ its due place, for God is infinitely
 “ wise and good. I find also that my
 “ own heart recoils at the sudden, in-
 “ considerate, and sanguinary sentences
 “ so frequent in the east: the speedy
 “ execution of murderous mandates is
 “ both intolerable to the subject, and
 “ dangerous to the sovereign. When a
 “ full scope is left to will, men are ever
 “ inclined to will too much; and by
 “ this same exertion of despotic sway,
 “ the prince forfeits the confidence of
 “ his people, by whose united hatred
 “ he is at length suppressed as a fero-
 “ cious animal. To me, the blood of
 “ the meanest *Persian* is of inestimable

“ value, and nothing but the law shall
 “ ever have a right to shed it.

“ I have studied to introduce in
 “ *Persia* a form of government, which,
 “ without being dangerous to the mon-
 “ arch, may secure the people from the
 “ sudden gusts of arbitrary passions :
 “ a free government seems no ways
 “ adapted to the tempers of the eastern
 “ nations—Here the *Patan* bowed, and
 by his mien and gestures gave to under-
 stand that an exception occurred to
 him; but he respectfully forebore to
 interrupt the emperor — “ their vio-
 “ lent passions seem therefore to require
 “ controul, which a monarchic power
 “ alone can strenuously maintain. And
 “ thus all that remained was, effectually
 “ to

“ to secure the *Persians* from the oppression of a tyrant.

“ Every subject, every court of justice, every civil department must have the privilege of recurring to the emperor ; they must be allowed to urge, not only their private concerns, but also the public wants of the empire : the sovereign receives every remonstrance and petition without the least danger either of offence or of injurious punishment.

“ The emperor never condemns, not even the audacious traitor who may have dared to insult his person. All punishments, all sentences are deliberately scanned in the courts of
O 3 “ justice ;

“ justice; and the opinions of the plu-
 “ rality decide each question. A good
 “ emperor need not be apprehensive
 “ that the offender, who has trespassed
 “ against himself, should escape due pu-
 “ nishment. He retains the right of be-
 “ ing merciful; and a prudent sovereign
 “ will freely avail himself thereof—The
 “ law condemns the guilty; and the
 “ emperor has the noble prerogative of
 “ pardoning.

“ The departments of government
 “ are independent of each other. The
 “ church, the army, the courts of jus-
 “ tice and police, the offices of the
 “ revenue, are bodies entirely distinct;
 “ in which every order descends, in an
 “ uninterrupted succession, from the
 “ chief

“ chief director down to the lowest
 “ dependant. The emperor is the only
 “ center in which all the transactions
 “ and proposals of these separate de-
 “ partments must unite. This division
 “ of power secures the throne, and pre-
 “ vents the combinations that might be
 “ formed against the sovereign. A de-
 “ gree of rivalry and suspicion will al-
 “ ways subsist between the several of-
 “ ficers of state.

“ The emperor introduces no change
 “ in any of these established depart-
 “ ments, without previously consulting
 “ those to whom the affair relates.
 “ Thrice may the courts remonstrate,
 “ and every time will the emperor hear
 “ and examine their arguments ; and

“ in the mean while the promulgation
 “ of the proposed decree shall be sus-
 “ pended. But at length the emperor’s
 “ commands must be obeyed ; for
 “ there must be an end of hesitation
 “ and suspense.

“ The emperor finds also his secu-
 “ rity in the ministry of his delegates.
 “ They form no distinct body : they
 “ have no associates in their offices ;
 “ and no peculiar power, but that
 “ of postponing the execution of a de-
 “ cree when they have reason to think
 “ it any ways detrimental, and of
 “ suspending the functions of a public
 “ officer ; and this only till the em-
 “ peror shall have declared his pleasure.
 “ The emperor will also refer to its
 “ proper

“ proper court every propofal or re-
 “ monftrance of a delegate. The de-
 “ legate is to attend to every object
 “ or incident that may be conducive
 “ to the good of the ftate, and to
 “ report to the emperor on all mat-
 “ ters without the leaft refcrve. He is
 “ alfo to be attentive to all other con-
 “ cerns, though they may not immedi-
 “ ately come under the heads of the
 “ general divifion. Trade, navigation,
 “ learning are likewise committed to
 “ his infpection.

“ In all public tranfactions, the ne-
 “ ceflary formalities fhall be obferved :
 “ all things fhall be regiftered in their
 “ proper books. Much depends on
 “ this methodical order ; it diftinguifhes
 “ a regular

“ a regular government from the do-
 “ minion of barbarous despotism.

“ By these precautions I flatter my-
 “ self that the effects of hasty precipi-
 “ tation are obviated; and that truth
 “ will find a free admission to the
 “ throne—and yet more power is left
 “ in the hands of *Usong* than he is
 “ willing to exert.

“ My friend will, finally, admit that
 “ a monarchical government has one
 “ essential advantage over the repub-
 “ lican. The latter sinks into ruin by
 “ slow degrees; but its decay cannot be
 “ retarded: no heroic virtues of sin-
 “ gle men will suffice to extricate the ves-
 “ sel from the resistless eddy of the at-
 “ tractive

“ tractive gulf : whereas a single mo-
 “ narch, if earnestly bent upon it, may
 “ yet restore peace and harmony in a
 “ disordered state. *Vespasian* healed the
 “ many wounds six profligate tyrants
 “ had struck on his desponding *Rome* ;
 “ and, after the perverse *Domitian*,
 “ she soon revived with redoubled
 “ splendor under the glorious *Trajan*.
 “ But ever since the time of the *Gracchi*
 “ had the commonwealth been on its
 “ decline, and hastened irretrievably to-
 “ wards its final ruin. The hearts being
 “ once corrupted, even the laws were
 “ misapplied to the suppression of
 “ liberty ; and the pretended assertors
 “ of the constitution were the very
 “ instruments of its total dissolution.”

The

The emperor ceased: but some new plans of improvement occurred to him, which he afterwards brought into execution. He turned to the *Patan*, and desired to be informed of his doubt concerning the assertion, that a republic could not subsist in *Asia*.

“ A new people has appeared of
 “ late on the *Indus*,” said the *Patan*,
 “ which is, in the strictest sense, a re-
 “ publican state: its origin is said to
 “ be from *Tibet*. These strangers are
 “ numerous, and divided into twelve
 “ tribes. In peace they have no chief;
 “ their code of laws lies on an altar;
 “ and, according to its tenour, the
 “ elders frame their sentences. In
 “ war

“ war they chuse a leader. They have
 “ made themselves masters of the greatest
 “ part of *Indus*, even as far as the sea.
 “ Their love of liberty prevails also
 “ in their religious worship: they
 “ know of no external rituals, but in
 “ silent devotion adore one God alone*.”

Ufong thanked the ambassador for his information, and turning to the *Venetian* ;
 “ Thus have the *Helvetians* now,” said he, “ a confederacy similar to theirs
 “ in *Hindostan* :” for the emperor was well acquainted with this valiant people, and particularly with their martial discipline ; which, notwithstanding the most perfect freedom, was yet extremely rigorous, and had, as *Ufong* observed, chiefly contributed towards

* The *Sheiks*, who flourish to this day.

the victories of those hardy mountaineers.

The emperor received soon after the news of *Mahmud's* death: a violent illness, attended with excruciating torments, had suddenly ended his career. The sultan had turned his arms towards the west, and invaded *Italy*: he seemed to meditate the fall of ancient *Rome*, after having subdued the modern. *Bajazid* succeeded him on the throne; a peaceful monarch, who had to struggle with his own brother, and therefore laid aside all thoughts of molesting *Persia*.

Usong thought now his presence no longer necessary at *Tabris*. A secret impulse prompted him to return to
Schiras

Schiras; where a milder air promised a continuance of health in his old age; and where the arts that stood in need of his immediate inspection, and were nursed by his liberality, had fixed their seat. The ladies removed with the *Persian* heir: but the emperor surveyed for the last time the western provinces, and visited several towns which he had not seen before.

He saw the smiling *Ardewil*, seated in the midst of flowery lawns, and venerable by its sacred tombs. In the part of *Armenia* that is subject to *Persia*, he saw the important *Tiflis*, strongly fortified by its natural position. He saw the sources of the *Euphrates* and *Tigris*. He saw daily fresh causes of pure de-
light,

light. All the lands were cultivated: innumerable ploughs furrowed the teeming soil; and fertilized the opening glades, lately the secret haunts of solitary roes.

The rivers in the arid *Mesopotamia*, and in *Irac*, were all branched out; and an exuberant fertility streamed through the droughty plains. In every village *Ufong* saw new houses, peasants well-clad and hale, and their sprightly wives neatly adorned with silver trinkets. The voice of gladness and exultation ascended from every humble cot. *Ufong* was no longer susceptible of sensual enjoyments; yet the heart of the benevolent hero was wide expanded at sight of the diffusive happiness, in the procuring of which
 he

he had so great a share — He could not however, at times, avoid inflicting rigorous punishments.

Not far from *Amadan* he met a peasant leading a horse richly caparisoned, and found he was conducting it to one of the judges of that city. The judge was a man well read in the *Persian* poetic authors; he was himself possessed of genius, and favourably known to the emperor for his pleasing turn of wit and humour. *Ufong* ordered the peasant to be watched, and was soon informed that his gift had been accepted; and that the cause he had depending before the judge related to one of the water-ducts, which occasioned frequent and violent contests among the country

people. They were both carried before the divan, and brought to a confession of their guilt. "Thou," said the emperor to the peasant, "hast seduced an
 "useful man, one who had all the
 "qualities of a discerning magistrate.
 "Thou hast robbed *Persia*; for what
 "is more valuable to her than virtuous
 "men? Thou shalt live in *Mogostan*;
 "but thy next transgression shall be thy
 "certain death."—*Ufong* turned next to the trembling *Literato*: "Who was
 "better informed than thou," said he,
 "that receiving presents is worse than
 "plundering? 'Tis they that force out
 "of the hands of innocence her lawful
 "property, and transfer it to the iniqui-
 "tous perverter. Thou shalt also dwell
 "in

“ in *Mogostan*, in the same village with thy
 “ seducer ; and when you meet, every
 “ glance shall remind you that no crime
 “ in *Persia* escapes due punishment.”

At length *Ufong* returned to *Schiras*.
 His artists had now been, for several
 years, debarred the presence of their
 generous patron ; and no eye fosters
 progressive arts better than the master's
 eye. He procured help to those branches
 that seemed declining : he encouraged
 the most industrious, and took charge
 himself of the greatest part of the goods
 they manufactured. The *Chinese* had
 now furnished whole villages with fer-
 tile mulberry-hedges and painted cot-
 tons ; and in many parts of *Persia*,
 the *Chinese* earthen-wares were admirably

imitated, and even exceeded, in firmness, in brightness of colouring, and elegance of taste.

Ufong's first care was to erect a monument to his beloved *Liosua's* memory. He pitched, for that purpose, upon an eminence that stood in view of the imperial palace: the tomb was constructed in the *Chinese* manner; and white naphta burned, night and day, in silver lamps, around the mournful bier. Some of the oldest servants of the empress were appointed keepers of the tomb; which easy office soothed their regret, and supplied the wants of their increasing years.

Ufong

Ufong issued now several ordinances: the assiduous monarch was attentive to every concern of his vast empire, and extended his care over every part of it, as if he had only a few villages to govern *. He saw commerce in a flourishing state: the caravans came from *Halep* to *Mosul*, loaded with the western merchandizes: the *Tartarian* productions were brought from *Bok-bara* to *Mesched*; and the treasures of the luxuriant *Hindostan* were conveyed through *Candabar* to *Schiras*. The ships from *Arabia*, from *Guzurat*, and *Atsbin* came to *Basra*, fraught with the

* *Della Valle* bestows the same encomium on the first *Abbas*.

produce of their countries, and the rich stores of *Serendib* *.

Usong was convinced that trade is the second prop of a well-governed state; for to agriculture he still gave the preference, as being of indispensable necessity.—Some caravans had been attacked: the *Usbecks* still committed depredations, and obstructed the trade from *Bokhara*. *Usong* made a law, by which he promised to refund to the owners, out of the public treasury, the whole value of all the goods of which they had been plundered on the roads; and authorized the governors to claim the reimbursement of the amount from the

* *Ceylon*.

district in which the theft had been committed. This generous law, which even the most civilized nations are not so disinterested as to imitate, has since been religiously observed, even under the most oppressive reigns*. The *Persians* found an easy method to prevent their being often charged with such restitutions: they appointed a horse patrol†, whose number was proportioned to the danger each district was exposed to; and this expedient soon cleared the roads so effectually, that a single traveller

* So late as *Schach Nadir's* reign was the *English* company indemnified for some goods which the insurgents at *Asterabad* had plundered.

† *Rbadar*. See *Della Valle*. T. VI.

might safely, although unguarded, have carried stores of gold from *Candabar* to *Orfa*. As the horsemen were in constant motion on all the roads, as the strangers were directed to take passports in every town, and none were suffered to travel without such certificates, the robbers lost all hopes of escaping, and henceforth carefully avoided the *Persian* territories. All the *Persians*, and especially the land militia, were ordered to assist the established patrol: and *Ufong* would have severely rebuked the audacious pride of the soldiery, who, being paid by the empire, should have refused to contribute to its interior safety—All the dread and inconvenience of robberies fell now upon the *Osmons*,
whose

whose provinces were ravaged by whole bands of merciless freebooters.

The emperor had not forgot the caution of the *Patan* ambassador: his increasing age required some alleviation of his labour—He appointed chief directors to the four principal departments, who were severally, on four stated days, to transact the business of their offices with the emperor: on the other days, he dispatched the public affairs of the state in the presence of them all. As all these departments were not attended with an equal share of business, he dedicated his remaining hours to the perusal and answering of the letters from the delegates. Each
director

director had four assessors, who were all taken out of the same department over which they now presided. In the usual course of business, the chief proposed the matters to the emperor: it was expected that all evidences should be ready; for very frequently, and especially if cautioned by a delegate, the emperor examined on the spot whether the recital fully corresponded with the vouchers; and he was inexorable if he ever traced the least irregularity. When the matter required much time, he took all the documents, and carefully inspected them himself at his greater leisure, or intrusted them to the examination of an approved servant — He constantly adhered to the rule,
that

that before every final determination, each director, and all the assessors were to give in their opinions in writing. These papers, being preserved, made them cautious in alledging the sequel, in which not the least error escaped his notice. *Ufong* did not however abolish the right every subject had of immediately petitioning the emperor; and the public audiences were daily continued.

Ishmael was now arrived at the age when the mind is susceptible of higher knowledge. *Ufong* appointed a skilful and good-tempered man out of each department to instruct him; and added a fifth, who was to initiate him in all the general maxims and affairs of government.

government. The young heir became thus early acquainted with the religious doctrines and discipline, the military regulations, the laws, the finances, and polity of the empire he was one day to govern. He was also trained to the use of arms, and attended every review of the emperor's guard, and of the militia that was quarteted in the neighbouring towns; for through the senses can instruction be best conveyed into young minds. He was shewn the different arts and manufactures, the method of casting cannon, the armourers shops, the chief articles of trade. The emperor required the presence of the *Schach Zadé* at all trials of law questions: he heard the arguments of the referring judge, and the grounds on
which

which the sentence rested. He was practised in the various exercises of horsemanship, of fencing, and even swimming.—His temper was fiery, and yet pliant. He flew to honour, through every avenue; and the example of his great progenitor urgently spurred him on towards perfection.

He undertook the annual circuits, which were now too fatiguing for the aged monarch. Select companions were sent out with him, who directed his attention to all important objects. He made his own report to the emperor, and offered his remarks on all matters of consequence that occurred to him in the four departments. The people always entertain a fondness for their
young

young princes ; and a favourable prejudice ever arises when they perceive in the bloom of youth the ripening seeds of wisdom. —Generous as his grandfather, apt as *Nushirwani*, beautiful as *Haider* ; *Isbmael* won every heart, and exulted in the demonstrations of love that were heaped on him from every quarter.

Ufong was too great to foster jealousy —He provided that *Isbmael* should also be inured to war. An insurrection of some *Ballushes*, a savage tribe of *Patans* inhabiting a mountainous tract south of that country, obliged the emperor to march out a small army against them. The experienced *Scherin* was put at the head of it ; and *Isbmael* took
the

the field with him as a volunteer. The prudent commander shewed him the drift of all the orders that were issued, and of every motion the army made.

The chan, with cautious circumspection, forced his way into the mountains. He always occupied the eminences before the main camp advanced; and the few fire-arms he had carried with him gave him such an ascendant over the straggling savages, that they were soon forced to surrender. They laid down their arms at the foot of a turfy hill, on which *Ishmael* stood in rich attire; and gave hostages. Fortifications were raised on the most eligible spots, in which sufficient garrisons were lodged;
and

and a flying camp continued some years near the passes that lead into the mountains. *Issmael* returned full of youthful joy and triumph, and related to the emperor every circumstance of the campaign. His bosom beat high with the warm sensations of his first exploits. *Usong* embraced the amiable prince, and introduced him now into the assemblies of the four departments: at times he demanded his opinion; either approved it, or kindly pointed out his errors—Thus he inured him to the load which, according to the course of nature, was soon to light upon his shoulders.

Nushirwani was daily solicitous to furnish amusements for the increasing age of her great parent. At times she
caused

caused wild animals to meet in bloody strife ; and the emperor was not displeased at those fierce encounters, for there, as he said, another robber always perished. At *Ufong*'s court were seen the *Baburath*, which resembles the lion by its shaggy mane, and whose ruddy hide is variously overspread with jetty speckles * : the *Æthiopian Giraffa*, which, with a camel's neck and the panther's spots, displays, in the strangest shape, the tamest and most gentle instinct. The princes frequently ordered the guards to perform their various evolutions — A number of artists were often introduced to *Ufong*, each of whom

* See *Contarini's* and *Barbara's* embassies to *Ufong*.

produced the different labours of his industry; and among these, the princess always found means to convey some new and curious performances. The finest *Indian* gems were laid before him, on which he at times bestowed some leisure moments, as he perfectly understood their real value and various flaws. Poets sometimes recited their verses to him. — The princess also instituted wrestling games, in which the supple combatants fought for distinguished prizes, but were to abstain from bloodshed. Other prizes were also distributed for the most nimble-footed runners, and the fleetest racers: the latter *Usong* countenanced as being of an useful tendency, since they urged on the *Persians* to improve their noble breed of horses

by

by *Arabian* stallions, which have ever been esteemed superior to the *Persian*.

Ufong was sensible, that all these various entertainments were the effect of the attentive love his prudent *Nushirwani* bore him, and seemed therefore to take greater delight in them, than he really experienced. Never since his dear *Liosua's* death had he recovered his wonted cheerfulness: he lived however in the kindest harmony with the *Trebizontine* princess; and studied the rather to procure her happiness, as her family's heavy disaster could in some measure be attributed to *Ufong*. Neither had his health been ever perfectly restored since his former illness. He felt his strength daily

Q 2

subsiding,

subsiding, and a general languor prevailing throughout his frame : he was often seen, in the silent midnight hour, casting a mournful glance towards the monument of his late empress ; and though he was too generous to afflict his present consort with the sadness of his heart, yet it was too visible that he hoped soon to rejoin his departed *Liosua*.

A new embassy from *Venice* diverted, for a while, the emperor's pensive melancholy. *Joseph Barbaro*, one of the nobles, had been deputed from the senate to strengthen the bands of mutual amity that subsisted between *Ufong* and the republic. He brought fresh supplies of warlike implements, and
workmen.

workmen. He was accompanied by *Nicholas Crespo* duke of some islands in the *Egean Sea*; a young and amiable prince, who joined to the amenity of the *European* manners the greatest elegance of shape and features.

Zeno was yet living: he sent to his most noble friend many curious books, printed with the new invented tin letters that are now in use: the best *Italian* and ancient *Roman* histories were of the number.—*Zeno* congratulated himself in having been one of the first admirers of *Ufong*'s early virtue and interior greatness.

The empress enjoyed all the freedom she could have expected in a *Chri-*

stian court in *Asia*: a private place of worship had been assigned her. On one of the great festivals of the *Christians*, she appeared accompanied by her younger sister the fair *Eudoxia*. *Crespo* was present at the ceremony. He observed the charms of the young *Trebizontine* princess, which were greatly enhanced by an elegant and decent garb. He admired the affecting mixture of devotion, humility and princely dignity that surrounded her. The duke of *Naxos* could not behold such beauty with indifference; but the virtue he perceived in her mien and deportment, struck him far more than the charms of her lovely person. He had frequent opportunities of seeing her, and became daily more enamoured.

The

The imperial consort looked upon all *Christians* as her relations, and received the prince of *Naxos* with the distinction to which his rank and amiable qualities entitled him. Encouraged by her kind treatment, he ventured to acknowledge to the *Despoina*, how desirous he was to merit the hand of her lovely sister. Although the empress was unwilling to lose her; yet she saw a far greater prospect of happiness for *Eudoxia*, in a marriage with a *Christian* prince, than with any *Mahometan*: though she had not herself been harassed in her religion; yet she knew how urgent the eastern princes usually are, to bring the fair inhabitants of their *Harems* over to their faith and worship. She countenanced the hopes of

Cresspo, and procured him the means of declaring his passion to the young princess. He succeeded so well in his amorous suit, that *Eudoxia* imposed no other condition on their union, but the consent of her kind protector. It was soon obtained; for *Ufong*'s bounteous wisdom consulted merely the true happiness of those he cherished. He found no valid exception against the duke's proposal, and the nuptials were soon to be celebrated in private: but nothing concerning them was to transpire; for the discretion of the eastern damsels is instantly alarmed, even if their names are only mentioned in public conversation.

The bride was one day on a visit to the excellent *Nushirwani*, when the young
Ismael

Isbmael entered unexpectedly the room of his beloved mother, to whom he had a youthful petition to address. *Eudoxia* could not withdraw; she was unveiled, and in all the ease of friendly familiarity. Too well did *Isbmael* see her; too soon did the attractive charms, that had captivated the christian prince, enflame the heart of the young *Persian* heir. The fair one quitted the apartment of the imperial princess as soon as possible; but her eyes had already exerted their fatal influence. All the vivacity of youth, all the vehemence of an *Oriental*, raged in the breast of *Isbmael*. He saw now no prospect of felicity, but in the possession of the beauteous *Grecian*.

Unable

Unable to conquer his ardent passion, he solicited his mother's intercession with the emperor. Being the only heir of the *Persian* throne, and not likely to continue long unmarried, he flattered himself that he should not be refused the only bride with whom he could ever hope to be supremely happy.

Next to virtue, *Nushirwani* loved her hopeful *Isbmael*; but she had the same tender regard for justice, which had acquired immortal honour to the glorious monarch whose name she bore. She acquainted the fervid youth with the engagements of the fair princess, and endeavoured to convince him that his passion was inconsistent with the laws. He threw out the most bitter lamentations;

tions ; and the reverence he owed his mother's presence did not deter him from uttering some hard invectives against his rival, in which some secret menaces were even implied : and it was since known from his attendants that, on his return to his apartment, he flew out into the most violent fits of rage and passion.

Nushirwani hoped the prudent *Ufong* would soon pacify the ardent youth ; and prevent a commotion, which she knew would greatly offend the emperor, who was all gentleness himself, and in whose illustrious house no passion had ever yet broke forth, which could not be approved by virtue.

Ufong

Ufong sent for the prince of *Persia*.

“ *Ishmael* knows how well I love
 “ him,” said the venerable monarch:
 “ he knows that he is the sole object
 “ of all my labour; that all I do for
 “ *Persia* I do for his sake, in hopes
 “ that he will one day succeed to a
 “ peaceful and prosperous empire.—
 “ But I love the virtuous *Ishmael*; the
 “ *Ishmael* who aspires to the glory of
 “ being a good and equitable monarch:
 “ never should I love an unjust, a ty-
 “ rannic *Ishmael*; no never, even though
 “ he were the son of my duteous *Nu-*
 “ *shirwani*.

“ Only two steps is *Ishmael* removed
 “ from the *Persian* throne, and in a few
 “ years he will experience the weight
 “ of

“ of an imperial diadem. But that
 “ weight can be alleviated, if *Iskmael* af-
 “ cends the throne with the fame of a
 “ virtuous prince. If *Persia* may hope
 “ for ease and comfort under his sway,
 “ then will all hearts unite in his fa-
 “ vour; then will his pleasure be the
 “ only will of *Persia*.

“ But how if my fucceffor is a prince
 “ more fufervient to his loofe defires,
 “ than to the dictates of juftice and
 “ humanity? one who forcibly fnatches
 “ the bride from the arms of her af-
 “ fianced lover, and attempts to break
 “ the bands which no man may tear
 “ afunder? what can *Persia* expect
 “ from *Iskmael*, from the young tyger
 “ who already gnaws the chain of
 “ parental

“ parental authority, and lends his yet
 “ tender fangs to his wrathful ire and
 “ vengeance? Who will be secure from
 “ the outrageous tyrant, if he now al-
 “ ready spurns at all law, at all due
 “ reverence and justice?

“ So wretched must not my *Ishmael*
 “ be: he will not hazard the glory of
 “ being a virtuous prince, for the gra-
 “ tification of a momentary fancy.
 “ Youthful desires will not have a
 “ greater ascendant over him, than the
 “ hopes of a prosperous reign, of *Per-*
 “ *sia's* approbation, and of the genuine
 “ happiness of a life, which is yet a
 “ wide extended prospect before him.”

Ishmael!

Ismael was ardent, but he was virtuous: he bowed submissive, and kissed the emperor's hand. The only favour he requested was, that he might be absent when the hopes of possessing the fair *Eudoxia* should be for ever blasted: to see her himself surrendered into the arms of a fortunate rival, would, he feared, be a trial far too severe for his unguarded virtue.

The *Usbecks* had made an inroad into *Chorassan*; and *Usong* sent out *Nortimur*, one of the few surviving *Nowians*, with a body of light troops against them. *Ismael* marched with the *Persians* to improve his military knowledge. *Nortimur* was not only bent upon repulsing these vagrant *Tartars*; *Persia* would have enjoyed

too short a respite : he resolved also to chastise them, and deter them, for many years, from annoying their peaceful neighbours.

No sooner were the rovers apprized of *Nortimur*'s approach, but they retired towards their frontiers : they left the plains of *Chorassan* behind them ; and posted themselves in a narrow vale, between craggy rocks, through which laid the narrow road to their inhospitable abodes.

Nortimur procured a numerous herd of horses, which he knew was the booty the *Usbecks* most eagerly pursued. He encamped in the plain, on this side the valley which the enemy occupied. He
con-

contracted his troops into so narrow a compass, that they appeared a very inconsiderable body; and sent out the horses, under a small guard, to graze in the meadows between the foe and him. The robbers, whose greediness nothing but fear could check, thought they had now an easy prey before them: they sallied out of their strong encampment, and fell upon the herd, whose guard instantly withdrew. *Nortimur* himself feigned a retreat.

He saw the *Usbecks* now employed in seizing the horses, which the tumult of the attack had scared from the deceitful pasture; and that almost every *Tartar* had a horse to drag after him, which followed with reluctance his unknown

master : he ordered the *Persian* banner to advance. The troops, who knew the signal, ran full speed with their *Hircanian* sabres in hand, among the scattered *Usbecks*. They found little resistance from the enemy, who were encumbered with their booty. The robbers fled towards their mountains; but as scarce more than one abreast could possibly penetrate the narrow pass, the greatest part fell victims to the *Persian* vengeance, which they had so frequently provoked; and few of them escaped.

The general followed them, and seized on their strong places; for none are greater dastards than robbers, when defeated. His view was not to extend

tend the *Persian* frontiers: but before he granted a peace to the dismayed *Barbarians*, he demanded a number of their *Murſes* as pledges, who were ſince every third year exchanged for an equal number. Theſe hoſtages were diſtributed in the ſtrong towns in *Choraſſan*; where, their liberty excepted, they enjoyed every comfort the *Persian* hoſpitality could procure them. *Uſong* wiſhed to gain their affections, and with many he ſucceeded.

Whiſt *Nortimur* aſſerted *Persia's* honor, and *Iſhmael* was ſatiating the active fire of his youthful courage, with the glory which he acquired by his bravery and military conduct, the nuptials were celebrated at *Schiras*. The noble pair

Soon after left *Persia*, and settled at *Venice*; and their daughters were since married into the principal families of the republic *. *Usong* dismissed them with presents worthy his generosity: and on *Ishmael's* triumphant return, every object of his passion was far removed.

Usong was now chiefly intent upon framing instructions for his successor: he drew them up himself, and deposited a copy in each of the four departments; that *Persia* might know by what maxims he had governed; and that *Ishmael* might expect, that his administration would be compared with the

* See *Bizarro*.

principles and counsels of his glorious progenitor, and that he would be judged according to his acquiescence in them. “ I have no secret,” said the noble *Ufong*: “ O that *Persia* could “ look into my heart, and read its every “ thought and earnest wish !” The original he proposed to deliver himself to *Isbmael* on a solemn occasion, which he had already premeditated : it was written in *Ufong*’s own hand, and contained the substance of the following abstract.

U S O N G
EMPEROR OF PERSIA'S
LAST COUNSELS
TO THE
SHACH SADÉ ISHMAEL.

ATTEND, my beloved son, to the counsels by which *Ufang* prospered—Long has he lived, long has he reigned, and always found that *Virtue is true wisdom.*

Fear nought so much, my son, as thine own power—It is unlimited: the *Persians* have placed an entire confidence in me. This boundless authority is a blessing, when wisdom is its guide;
but

but it will be the cause of thine, and of thy people's ruin, if once thy will becomes thy rule of action—Prescribe thou limits to thy power: share it with the laws, with the established forms, with the constitution; and retain only such a portion of it, as will enable thee to be beneficent. Examine minutely every wilful inclination, every rising wish, before it is put in execution; and instantly reject it, if thou dost blush to own it to thy people; in that case it is thine enemy.

Know, that we always incline to what procures our happiness. If the *Persians* live in peace and liberty under thy government; if no exterior foe annoys them; if the fruits of their labour

are secured to them; if they find justice in the tribunals; if no one suffers, but those the law condemns; then will all the *Persians* love the sovereign who procures them such valuable blessings, and even foreign nations will come to shelter themselves under thy protecting pinions.

Govern thou, if thy empire is to be well governed: love labour therefore, and appoint for every branch of business its proper time. Neglect none of the hours thou hast promised to the state: that were a theft on *Persia*. If thou dost habituate thyself to fulfil thy duty, thy duty will be easy and delightful: if thou dost often neglect it, then wilt thou

thou soon neglect it constantly—Disorder breeds disorderliness.

Be not afraid of labour: labour is the parent of honour, and honour begets security. If thou art true to virtue, thou mayest, with justice, indulge self-approbation; and thy interior worth will hush the voice of vicious appetites. Vice will not dare approach thy heart, in which it finds no correspondent harmony—If once thou art subdued by luxury, then mayest thou no longer honour thyself: and how shall others honour him, who cannot but despise himself?

Sloth is the greatest failing of a prince: a slothful monarch betrays, he alienates
his

his people; he sells it to his servants for the vile consideration of indulging his own ease. He basely renounces the glory of being the source of public welfare; and demeans himself even to the condition of a shadow, that represents a man, but is actuated merely by external powers. The subject is more wretched under a slothful, than under a wicked prince: the oppression of many inferior substitutes, whose extortion is authorized, extends even to the huts of the poor labourers; the fury of a tyrant is only dangerous to courtiers.

Ne'er will the *Persian* monarch stand
in need of handsome women, or of
luscious

Inſcious cates; but let not ſenſual pleaſures be thy aim: they will emaculate thy mind, and diſable thee from the labour that is incumbent on thee: thy throne will ſoon become a ſluggard's couch, on which thy honour and thy happineſs will be idly ſlept away.

Let thy people's happineſs be thy greateſt comfort and delight. Rejoice, when thou ſeeſt them prosperous; think thy treaſures increaſed when they augment in number; and glory when none of them have cauſe to be diſſatisfied, or to lament.

Riſe early: the day is loſt that begins late.—Daily give audience to thy ſubjects,

subjects, who will return half satisfied, if thou dost but hear their suit. Conquer thy listlessness when thou dost feel thyself impatient of the throne. Ne'er let vexations discompose thy features. Think, that by each well-spent day ten others are made happy; and that for each neglected hour, ten others must be wretched.

Be not addicted to the pleasures of the chase: thy life is too important; not an hour of it may be toyed away. The happiness of many subjects must suffer, for every day thou dost bestow on the cruel and unprofitable sports of the field.

Con-

Consult each day with the heads of thy administration. One of the pillars of the state will sink to ruin, when one department is neglected.

All, thou canst not see ; yet much. Let no servant suspect that he may deceive thee, or be the abettor of unjust proceedings, and never be detected. Watch over them ; surprize them suddenly ; and avail thyself of some fit opportunity to try their probity.

Accept no gifts ; nor suffer any to be accepted : they are a bane to the great, and a grievous load on the bulk of the nation. 'Tis on the people the burden lies, when the great give presents to the emperor. Let *Persia* know, that thou

wilt sooner pardon a robbery, than a corrupting bribe*.

Do not prescribe many new regulations—Let the people obey the laws; but never accumulate their duties: never interfere in their domestic matters, nor measure out their food and raiment: never confine them by wanton and unnecessary restrictions.

The *Persians* are fond of shew—Pomp leads to great expence; it impoverishes the great, and provokes their avarice: thus wealth becomes the only virtue,

* Bribery is, and has always been, the greatest defect, and often the ruin of eastern states.

and merit is despised if destitute of outward lustre. The man of low estate, who hath scarce his needful maintenance, must pay for the superfluous gratifications of those in power ; he must starve, that they may lavish.—A splendid magnificence must surround the throne, to dazzle the eyes of the populace, and indulge their taste ; but never countenance ostentation in thy servants. Never prefer a rich garment to a simple vest ; nor ever shew peculiar honour to one who sparkles with inestimable jewels. Persuade thy people that a spendthrift is thy aversion ; and that thou dost not expect disinterested honesty from one, who labours under insatiable necessities.

Cherish

Cherish the sciences ; they are both useful and entertaining : they elevate the soul ; and constantly hold up to her the radiant crown, by which the adoration of the universe distinguishes the virtue of a worthy prince—Encourage the sciences also among the lower class of people : none are so prone to seditious tumults as barbarians ; civilized nations can be led by a slender thread, but the former want a curb.

Seek not to enlarge thy dominions : a state that needs not to stand in awe of its aspiring neighbours, is always large enough ; and conquests are not worth the calamities a conqueror brings upon his people. Never attack ; but vigorously

rouly defend thyself; when the honour of the empire is insulted, or when thy subjects are molested.

Avoid plunging into debt : be punctual and expeditious in thy payments ; and venture on no enterprize for which thou hast not the necessary funds ready at hand. The debts of a state are inevitable and fatal causes of oppression ; and if wars have made them unavoidable, then peace itself cannot alleviate the burden of a war.

Religiously adhere to faith and truth : treachery may at times be advantageous for an instant ; but it leaves a cankering sore behind it. A king, who does not keep his promises, is se-

cretely detested by all his neighbours: expose him to an imminent danger, and he will not find one single friend.

Be courteous to all other princes: arrogance has been the ruin of many potent monarchs. One neighbour rose up against an haughty prince, and all the others sided with him. Why shouldst thou do to others, what thou wouldst not bear from them?—Guard against favourites: thy ear must turn, thy justice must extend to every subject; thy rewards are due only to merit. Thy favour would intoxicate the minion; it is too strong a draught, when not dealt out in portions: thy gifts would make him opulent, but 'tis thy people that pays those gifts.

Change

Change not the constitution of the empire, even on the most specious grounds, without previously consulting the four departments: demand their opinions under their own hands; and once more maturely deliberate on the proposal. Laws gradually consolidate, and acquire the veneration of the people, which is founded upon their permanency. A new law is an avowal that the lawgiver has once erred; and why should he not err again?

Never permit an office to become hereditary: this error has caused the ruin of the most potent eastern monarchs — Assign no pensions upon the

S 2

revenues

revenues of towns or villages* : thy subjects would thereby be exposed to the extortion of powerful officers, by whom even the wages of thy inferior servants would be unduly curtailed. Pay all out of thy treasury.

Revere the religious worship : frequent the public *Meschide*. Thus will the subjects revere thee, and follow thy example — If thou despisest the duties of religion, then will piety vanish also out of the hearts of thy luke-warm subjects.

* The *Persian Tuyls* or affigments, are one of their greatest political errors. *Chardin*, T. VI.

Adhere

Adhere to the faith of thine ancestor

Ali. Trust to one God alone : remember that he sees thy every secret thought, and that thou art accountable to him for every action—But tolerate all other religions ; and they will join to implore the blessings of heaven upon thee. Shouldst thou persecute them, it would draw upon thee thousands of enemies ; and why shouldst thou, who art the father of thy subjects, have one foe among them.

Befriend the schools. Chuse pious *Mollabs* : how should he excite virtue in the hearts of others, who has banished it out of his own ?

S 3.

Employ

Employ no priests in civil offices: they have a more important duty; eternity is their concern. By mixing in temporal affairs, their sanctity soon vanishes; and narrow notions only remain, to guide them in the management of civil matters. Beware the example of the *Osmons*: a *Mufti*, who by a *Fetfa* deprives a *Wafir* of his life, will soon dare to pass a sentence on the *Sultan*.

Encourage not the increase of the *Dervishes*: why shouldst thou depopulate thy country? A husband shares in the welfare of the nation; his children inherit the public prosperity: they all suffer when the state is injured.

Love

Love peace; but learn the art of war: peace can only be maintained by good warlike preparations. All military functions and regulations must be familiar to thee.—Command thy armies in person; under their emperor's eye the *Persians* will combat with redoubled valour. Rewards and honours are dangerous in the hands of a general: he has his friends: his favour has no limits: the emperor has subjects; they are all his friends.

Honour good commanders; but never intrust the whole to one. Reward the soldiery; allow them a sufficient maintenance; let them be paid with scrupulous punctuality; but ne-

ver suffer them to oppress the subject : shall the protector of a people treat them as enemies ? Maintain a strict discipline ; but abstain from bloodshed : pay issues from thee, honours thou canst confer, but life is not at thy disposal.

Keep thy forces in constant practice : well exercised and ready troops will always be superior to the undisciplined bravery of savages—Study the military regulations of the western nations ; they both invent and cultivate.

Strive to form a good infantry : the want of that may prove fatal to the empire.

empire. Let slaves bear arms *, if the tenacious *Persian* insists upon his horse. Promote the use of fire-arms, and more especially of the artillery; for without that, thou must submit to the mortification of being constantly overawed by the *Osman* power.

Let the deserts of a common soldier entitle him to the highest ranks; but raise him gradually, and never by arbitrary strides: an excellent captain may prove an unskilful general—Contrive new prizes and honorary rewards: they excite courage, and are of no charge to the nation.

* This has been since practised by *Ufong's* successors.

Fortify

Fortify thy frontier towns to the east, west, and north ; secure them with strong garrisons : but never incumber the inland provinces with intrenchments and standing forces.

Thy army must never be reduced ; thou wouldst thereby become contemptible : it must not be numerous ; the burden would lie too heavy on thy people.

Justice is the basis of thy throne : have nothing more at heart, than that it be freely and impartially administered.

Keep a vigilant eye over the judges ; discard none without a manifest guilt :
a judge

a judge must be perfectly secure from the spite of the great. But be inflexibly severe to those, who, for private gain, have artfully warped the meaning of the law.

Honour the magistrates : their ministry maintains thy authority with the people. Never will they admit that an uncivilized power should subvert the throne, through whose reflected rays they are themselves resplendent. Trust thy own cause into their hands ; let the court freely pronounce between thee and the meanest *Persian* ; applaud their integrity, when they cast thee with just reasons. The loss of a few acres will be amply repaid by the confidence the people

people will place in a sovereign, who is more attached to justice than to his treasures.

Strictly maintain the forms of justice; without them all is arbitrary. Observe inviolably the stated days: an indulgence in favour of one subject is always detrimental to another.

Never bias a judge: 'tis thus the enemy of God strives to seduce the just. Never chuse special judges for particular causes or misdemeanours: thy people will acquit the guilty also, if sentenced by an arbitrary tribunal.

Often preside in the chief court: examine thou some cases. Little pains will insure

sure the honesty of the judges, if they may never be secure from thy inexorable justice.

Inflict no severe nor cruel penalties; but let no crime pass with impunity. Spare the blood of the subjects; and when thou dost preserve the life of a sentenced culprit, endeavour to render it both useful to the public, and the means of amendment to himself.

Let no persuasion prompt thee to raise the taxes, or to levy new ones: where are thy riches, if thy people is poor? The easy condition of the *Persian* labourer enables him to extend the fertile lands and plough the desarts: the stranger, oppressed by a rigid master,

master, will crave for leave to cultivate the wastes of *Persia*. Both ways thy income will increase, because thou dost not raise the taxes—Rejoice if every *Persian*, besides his bare pittance of necessaries, has something left to procure a pleasure: he is a man, and has thy feelings.

Maintain the roads clear, commodious, and secure. Protect the merchants; they are pillars of the state: honour them; thy throne borrows its lustre from their labour.

Ufong has not had time to improve his navy: the coasts of *Persia* are deserts. Remember that trade by land is limited, and that by sea it admits of infinite extent.

extent. 'Tis trade hath raised *Venice* from a fishing hovel, to its present grandeur: by trade she shines the empress of the main.

Protect all arts. Encourage them by prizes, by salaries, by honorary premiums; but never by loans: they induce young beginners to undertake more than their abilities can compass, and thus bring on their ruin. The inventor of a new tool is a benefactor to the empire: he that teaches thee to reap more sheaves in one morning, is thy brother. Prefer a well-cultured field to the most delightful garden: admire a wheat stalk more than the *Mogori* flower*. All distinction must arise

* The large replete and fragrant *Jessamin*.

from

from a tendency to the general good.

If *Persia* is populous, then wilt thou be rich and potent. Battles are won by hands: treasures are gained by hands: an unpeopled paradise is barren. Fear not, that the land will ever be unable to maintain its numerous inhabitants; the land will rather, from a furrowed field, become a florid garden. Great extent is weakness: if men are wanting, the frontiers are exposed, and aid is at a distance.

The governors are to display the majesty of the emperor: to them belongs a stately pomp, in order to command obedience, and awe inferiors. The
police

police of their respective provinces, the happiness of the people, the increase of trade and agriculture, are all under their care and direction. Chuse them with caution, O Imperial son of *Zengis*! by them *Persia* will judge of thee. Let them be minutely * informed of the number of inhabitants, the revenue, the natural and artificial productions of their respective provinces; the sources that feed their commerce. Prescribe the rules by which they are to govern: the dreary *Kerman* must not be subject to the same regulations as the rich meads round *Tabris*. The *Guebre* obeys the emperor; the *Curd* also is his loyal friend.

* *Chardin*, T. VI.

Towns are the seats of wealth; but the land may by no means be disregarded. 'Tis fit the rustic should earn his livelihood with a sweating brow: by use he becomes hardy, by temperance he is kept in florid health; his cot is the nursery of warriors. The towns belong to trade and commerce: all arts are sisters, and flourish best when near each other; they all labour in concert. Towns are also barriers against invading foes, to whom the open country would soon become an immediate prey, if not sheltered by such well-guarded fences.

Defend therefore the towns. Provide them with able calantars, and the capitals with experienced darogas: take them from the number of their assessors:

men

men must improve by practice. Allow them competent salaries, that they may have no need of extraordinary profits. Let the prospect of rising by their services, animate their zeal: chuse the delegates from among them; but let no man exert that important office in his native province.

A thousand minute concerns employ the officers of the police; a length of line must therefore be allowed to that lowest branch of administration: but still, let those officers be awed by the delegate, and by the fear of an extraordinary examination. They will not harass thy people, if, for trivial profits, they are to expect certain and severe correction.

T 2 Aid

Aid the towns by timely subsidies.
 Consider a well-built private mansion,
 as one of thy palaces; it contributes
 more to the good of the state, than the
 colossal pillars of the *Histaspides*. Good
 houses are rosy fetters to the subject;
 and he who has no property to forfeit,
 will be less cautious of rendering him-
 self obnoxious.

Persia is sultry, her roads are dreary,
 her hills are bare; encourage the plant-
 ing of trees. Woody hills will gather
 waters; and desarts may be fertilized,
 if streams can be procured. One acre
 that is recovered from barrenness, is
 worth twenty acres thou mayest wrench
 from enemies.

The

The delegates are thine eyes ; they must not be thy hands : if thou dost arm them with penal authority, they will become tyrants. They are to watch over the clergy, the army, the judicature, the police, and all the sources of public utility ; they are timely to indicate the evils that may infect those sources. Protect them strenuously, as long as they are faithful : under thy shield they shall fear neither the threats of the commanders, the cabals of statesmen, nor the murmurs of the people.—The voice of the people demands the attention of a prudent sovereign ; it is a gathering storm, which will break in flashes of thunder, if not dispelled : but the voice of truth claims still greater veneration ; 'tis that

thou art to expect from thy delegate. He is culpable, if he secretes the violence of a grandee, the sloth of a municipal officer, the rapacity of a collector. 'Tis his to convey the groans of every injured subject before the throne; 'tis thine to enquire into the charge, and by reproofs and penalties, to avert the encroaching evil.

Truth, vigilance, and activity are the duties of the delegate—Does he discharge them faithfully? let him be next thy throne: does he abuse the important trust? no chastisement will be too rigorous.

Attend, my beloved son, to the counsels by which *Usong* prospered—Contented will he die, if he may hope,
that

that they will win thy heart, and steadfastly direct thy course.



Usong provided also for the education of an imperial successor, while under age. “*Persia’s* welfare,” said he, “depends solely upon the wisdom and activity of its monarch: so vast an empire cannot but fall into decay, if governed by a weak and careless sovereign. Should therefore the *Persian* scepter ever fall into a minor’s hands, then shall his mother, and the heads of the four departments, preside over his education. The former will protect the infant; whilst the latter, being endowed with wisdom and experience, will labour to

“ form a monarch worthy of so great
 “ a nation—those who are placed in the
 “ highest stations are bound, by sacred
 “ ties, to guard the pledge that is de-
 “ posited in their hands—They shall
 “ select virtuous and able men, who
 “ shall inspire the future emperor with
 “ virtue, with love towards his people,
 “ and with the wisdom requisite effec-
 “ tually to love them. The heads
 “ shall prevent that the hours, in which
 “ the tender mind admits of guidance
 “ and deep impressions, be not idly
 “ squandered away. They shall behold
 “ with sacred horror, the pernicious flat-
 “ terers who shall basely conceal the fail-
 “ ings of the rising monarch, or consent
 “ to deprive him of his instruction.

“ More

“ More fortitude, more loyalty is here
 “ required, than in the brunt of war
 “ and conquests : but a true son of
 “ his country will always prefer its
 “ safety to his own life. An untutored
 “ prince will be dangerous to his
 “ guardians : a well-educated monarch
 “ will be thankful for their generous
 “ rigour.”

Ufong visibly declined : his age was
 attended with a slight fever, which
 gradually exhausted his vigour. Some
 months after, it was observed that a
 certain *Nazarene* was frequently with
 the emperor : his name was *Veribeni* ;
 he was one of the armourers from *Bres-*
cia, who came with *Thomas de Imola*.
 He had been born in the vallies between

Italy

Italy and *France*, and was now the director of the artists. The emperor daily conversed whole hours with him, and always in private. They did not seem to treat of business, nor did *Veribeni* ever apply for favours. His dress corresponded with his station; and his deportment was always sober and sedate, without the least tincture of moroseness. It was observed, that at the beginning of this intimacy, *Ufong* appeared troubled: he often sighed, and was seen to lift his eyes to heaven, with seeming fervent anguish.

Nushirwani, who was solely intent on the preservation of her illustrious parent, could not endure the mysterious
inter-

intercourse that subsisted between him and the unknown stranger. She ventured to disclose her apprehensions to the emperor; and to confess, that she suspected *Veribeni* of having contributed to the sadness that was visible in her venerable father, and which apparently threatened to shorten his precious life.

Ufong embraced his excellent daughter, and begged she would compose herself, nor seek to penetrate into his secret.

“Thou shalt know on what matters

“I converse with the *Nazarene*; but

“the time is not yet come.”

Ufong's countenance insensibly cleared up. He still continued grave; but a calm serenity spread on his front, and manifested itself in all his actions. His health was not restored; but a
sublime

sublime hope, a cheering expectation, seemed now to glow in his expanded bosom, and to have totally dispelled the gloom that preyed upon his mind.

The emperor soon after declared his resolution of abdicating the throne in favour of the *Shach Sadé*. The duties of government, he said, were now too heavy for him; but that he would neither desert the empire, nor leave it without an active head: that a weighty matter required all his remaining hours and vigour — “Perhaps,” said he to the solicitous *Nushirwani*, “this timely repose may yet protract the term of my declining life.”

The

The appointed day arrived. The commanders, the heads of the departments, the delegates, the principal judges, the darogas, the governors of the provinces, the yet surviving *Nowians* assembled in the divan. A throne was reared in the great open hall: on the sides of the *Meidan* stood the best *Persian* warriors; and the surrounding space was filled with an innumerable multitude. *Usong* mounted the throne with all the splendor of an eastern monarch; the heir sat near him on a lower seat.

“ Nobles and chiefs of *Persia* !” said *Usong*; “ Fifty years are this day
 “ elapsed, since you have placed me
 “ on this throne: thanks for your con-
 “ fidence !”

“ fidence ! thanks for your steady loy-
 “ alty ! No *Persian* has ever grieved the
 “ emperor’s heart by his murmurs or
 “ discontent : no *Persian* has ever been
 “ the enemy of *Ufong*. I am no longer
 “ he, who once encountered your auda-
 “ cious foes, and strenuously stood forth
 “ in your defence : my arm is withered,
 “ my sight is dim, my voice is faint ;
 “ and soon should I appear to you the
 “ mere shadow of a monarch.

“ You see me now for the last time ;
 “ but I shall not leave *Persia* destitute.
 “ I have done my best to form a
 “ worthy successor : receive him with
 “ confidence ; love him as you have
 “ loved *Ufong* : in him the blood of
 “ *Ali* and of *Zengis* are united. Long
 “ live

“live *Ishmael Padishaw* the emperor of
 “*Persia!*” He then descended : he girt
 the hallowed sword of *Rustan* round the
 loins of his illustrious grandson, and
 led him to the vacant throne.

Anguished—amazed, and yet affected
 by the noble appearance of the graceful
 youth—accustomed to revere the words
 of *Ufong* as the decrees of wisdom; the
 whole assembly exclaimed aloud, Long
 “live *Ishmael Padishaw!* Oh may he
 “reign as *Ufong!*”

The grandees paid homage to the new
 emperor according to the eastern cus-
 toms : and the exhausted *Ufong* with-
 drew to seek repose.

Veribeni

Veribeni now seldom left him. His strength daily diminished; and daily did his eyes beam forth a greater bliss, which had not its source on earth. He desired once more to see his successor. “*Isbmael*,” said he, “is young, but he is
 “ virtuous. Listen to the counsels of thy
 “ mother; I heard them and have found
 “ them profitable: who can love thee
 “ better? Be not too confident: consult,
 “ ponder, and then resolve. I have en-
 “ deavoured to fill the offices with
 “ worthy men; be not hasty in dis-
 “ placing them: love the friends of thy
 “ progenitor; they have been true to
 “ him, and experience has enlightened
 “ them.” He embraced the dejected
Isbmael—He turned next to the weeping
Nushirwani, and, with the most tender

glance, "Farewell, my *Nushirwani*!" said he; "farewell, my worthy friend! Use
 " all the attractive charms of thy per-
 " suasive mind, to preserve the confi-
 " dence of thy generous son: on your
 " mutual harmony depends the *Persian*
 " welfare. After I am expired, *Veribeni*
 " will acquaint thee with the words
 " that have made death a welcome
 " guest. Farewell and die as *Ufong*!"—
 He embraced his agonizing consort, and
 prayed her to seek comfort in *Nushir-*
wani's friendship. He took leave of his
 faithful *Scherin*, and of all his best
 friends and intimates. He then desired
 to be left alone.—"I can no longer,"
 said he fainting. *Veribeni* alone remained.
 The emperor was heard, at times, to an-
 swer some of the discourses of the grave

Vaudois : soon after he uttered only short affirmatives ; and *Veribeni* spoke now alone.

Nushirwani, who was in the next room, could no longer contain herself : she flew precipitately to the side of her expiring parent's bed. " My lord ! " My father ! " cried she, wringing her hands. *Ufong* beheld her with an aspect, on which the radiance of celestial gladness was wide expanded ; calm and without a cloud.—This was his latest glance ; he fixed his closing eyes upon his darling, and slept in peace the sleep of death.

Veribeni was offered all that imperial liberality could bestow, to reward his faithful services. " No," said he, " what
" I have

“ I have done will find a Remunerator.
 “ I shall die happy, the greatest of
 “ men has known the truth; but no
 “ one shall suspect me of earthly views.
 “ This is my sole request. Take,
 “ O most excellent *Nushirwani* ! this sim-
 “ ple narrative of the last hours of thy
 “ glorified parent: it is his last bequest.”
Veribeni retired into a solitude. His wish
 was soon accomplished: he died not long
 after without a friend, without a wit-
 ness, without any human comfort or
 assistance—but HE was with him, who,
 to all eternity, will not suffer his
 beloved to shed a tear of sorrow.

T H E E N D

I have done with a Restoration
I shall be happy, the general of
men has known the truth, but no
one shall suspect me of any views
I am a very late convert. Take
Oxford and the University of this
the restoration of the old building
was then accomplished: he did not long
after became a friend, without a wi-
thout, without the least intention of
disturbance. It was with him, who
of all things will be true, in
relation to the restoration of the



